COMMEMORATOR

Published Monthly by The Commemoration Committee for The Black Panther Party

VOLUME 3 NO. 5 March 1993

Community Tensions High

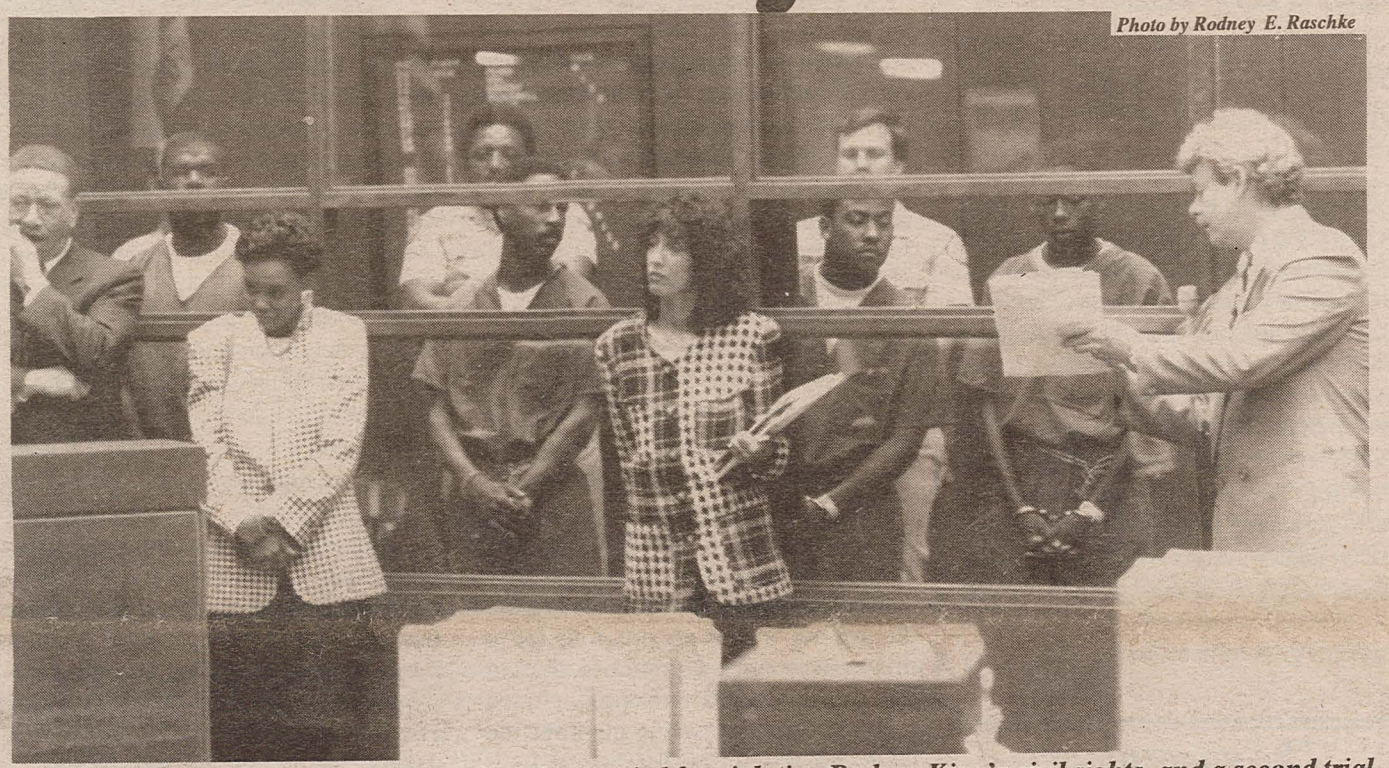

Photo by Rodney E. Raschke

With four officers — on reasonable bail — being tried for violating Rodney King's civil rights, and a second trial — of three black youths unable to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars — about to start, judicial rulings apperar designed to preclude the possiblitly that institutional racism in Los Angeles might be proved in court.

Los Angeles (USA)

A Call for Justice

Defense manipulation began to hit home early in the face of passive plaintiff passages au contraire. Judge John Davies began by announcing that US v. Classic(which ruled that racial bias did not have to be proven in order to prosecute in a civil rights case) would stand as the final ruling toward recognition of racism as a motivating factor in the hands of the officers.

Organizational amicus curiae briefs; including a group from San Francisco's Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals, asserted that racism entered into the picture long before the body of King became the motivating thing in the case. They dwelt on how the LAPD police were placed at the edge of the ghettos in an overt attempt to entrap those who had done their homeboy drinking and now were headed for town, pre-identifiable by low-rider vehicles and bumper stickers as well as their cars' locations and their safety violation status.

Accordingly, an immense volume of intense work redefined the terms of the test in US v. Classic which Judge Davies was free to interpret for the entry of defense on other issues of less general or more subjective strength.

Did a black jury woman contaminate her would-be jury mates by repeating criticism of the previous jury's racial make-up, as alleged by a part-time policeman who somehow gained easement to the jury itself? By that time, 3 out of 4 of the defense had selected the unusual and totally overburdened provision of summary dismissal of the present case.

The defendants' hastily selected position of solidarity, which appeared in the wake of the 4th King defendant beginning his original defense by attempting to withdraw from the claims of the rest, only to be pulled back by a defense meeting on the strategic trap, now seems ready to collapse again.

The worries of the King crowd of the 3-to-nothing formulation the defense has so far set in pre-trial motions leaves King advocates in other cities ready to address the situation

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A Close Look At Famine

The phenomenon of famine in the world today

American soldiers currently investing portions of Somalia under the banner of famine relief are entering a country listed as one of three prime markets on the international cocoa exchange, with an abundance of untapped uranium deposits as well as petroleum and many other outside interests. Like many African nations suffering famine — defined by Webster's Second Unabridged Edition as "an acute and general shortage of food in a population" — Somalia's agriculture has for many decades prioritized export commodities first.

Famine exists in areas in this state and in this country, right now, here in the United States as well as around the world. "Somalia is a drop in the bucket," said March Cohen, one of the authors of "Hunger 1993." Out of a world population, according to the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, of 5.5 billion people, "2 billion are malnourished in some way.

"The number of poor American children is larger than the entire population of Somalia," as recently reported by the U.S. Children's Defense Fund.

In conjunction with an international study by the United Nations, the Children's Fund report reveals how hunger in this country is also on the rise. According to the first study. one in every four black American children goes to bed hungry each night.

According to Kevin Shelley, President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the infant mortality rate among black children of San Francisco is higher than in thirty countries in the world.

There are 14.3 million poor children in the U.S. today. The United Nations

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Editorial

So Much for Justice

"Pardon Me, but..."

President Bush's pardon of former defense secretary, Casper Weinberger and five other government officials and CIA operatives, in the 1986 Iran-contra mega-scandal holds no surprises for many people, but it does give us a blatant case of a cover-up on top of a cover-up! When one compares this to the many instances where justice for members from the low-income communities are concerned it becomes really telling. Who does the American system of "justice" serve?

As second in command on former president Ronald Reagan's watch, Mr. Bush denies knowledge of the "Iran deal" where U.S. weapons were sold for the release of American hostages. This was brought to light during the November, 1986 Congressional hearing which found that the administration illegally diverted money from the sale of weapons to Iran (a nation classified by the U.S. government as "terrorist") to the Nicaraguan Contras (a CIA force attempting to overthrow the constitutional government of Nicaragua). Backing the Contras itself violated, not only the U.S. Constitution and the Boland Amendment (a law forbidding U.S. intervention in the affairs of a sovereign nation), but also international law.

The Reagan-Bush team chose former Marine Corps Lt. Colonel, Oliver North as point-man for this operation. He served as someone who could be sacrificed, if need be, without jeopardizing the executive office, to indirectly lead this illegal clandestine operation.

North and other government officials brought to light when subpoenaed by Congress some of the illegal activities that were carried out under the Reagan-Bush team, yet none of these principal players have been brought to justice. And North remains proud of what he did.

Special prosecutor, Lawrence Walsh mounted a campaign to go after the principal players, six-years later. Walsh's current investigation, focusing on Bush's pardon of Weinberger for his role in the case, has cause the collaborationist media to go into a sensational blitz, not for redressing the Nicaraguan people whose country was devastated and whose people died at the hands of this illegal action, but to give the impression to the American public that the justice system is fine and well.

Mr. Walsh is said to be a person who will go to great lengths to prove a point, even if the point is "pie in the sky." This case reflects the same corrupt legal system as last April's Rodney King verdict, the upcoming trial of the four black men charged with beating truck-driver Reginald Denny, and the federal civil rights case against four officers video-taped participating in the beating of King. The objective of both hearings is to perserve the illusion that the American justice system works for all Americans alike. Because justice, on the local level, failed for Rodney King, the federal government, in an effort to try

The government needed to give the impression that the criminal justice system serves all.

to show that the justice system still works, is going to try these police officers for "violation of Rodney King's civil rights!"

Already steps have been taken to minimize the result. The court has ruled that prosecutors must prove (beyond a reasonable doubt) that the officers were motivated by racism when they beat King. It is very difficult to *prove* a state of mind, so this increases the officer's chances of going free. Curiously, it also implies that it's ok to treat citizens the way the officers treated King, as long as racism is not the motive. White folks should be quite worried about that. No-one has ever been held accountable for *why* only four of 12 or more officers were charged, nor why only the beating of King, not of the two other passengers, was investigated.

Then there are more blantantly illegal measures, such as the anonymous mailing of federal prosecutors' "game

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Speak Out For Change

by Tony Love

We spend too much time fighting the wrong people. We go after the drug lords but we are not at the root of the problem. The problem is the system and the way the system is functioning.

We need a better school system. Our children need a better education. Teachers need to be paid more money to teach a better education to our children.We need better paying jobs, and we need jobs that reach every person.If you can give a parking space to someone who is handicapped, whatabout a job to those handicapped Americans who don't have a job to take care of themselves. If you cannot take care of yourself, you are handicapped.We need better assistance in our need, in this city where the poor are being oppressed. We need more money for our medical needs.

We need more honest police "to protect and serve" our community and to protect our children as they go to and from school...some don't make it home.

The government needs to fund jobs that pay a living wage for all the people who choose to work. We deserve the right to work, but the government took that right when it snatched the jobs from our community.

People who live in the low and middle income bracket are not included in this system when it comes to sharing the pie. However, we are included when it comes to paying the bills, the taxes, and too, police brutality we don't even get justice.

We are still fighting racism, when we should be fighting for change.We need to focus on the things that will help the American people to live successful lives.

Now it's time...

It's time for all the church leaders to take the front line for the people whom they shepherd. They must lead their flock to victory or change. If they are called by God, they will not fear death, but will fear the One who gives life...who is God Almighty. Church leaders must be a voice for the people and speak out. People want to know how you are going to help solve these problems that the American people are facing.

We want to know when you are going to stop talking and do something about this dying world.

We spend too much time fighting the wrong people. We go after drug lords; but we are not at the root of the problem. The problem is the system and the way the system is functioning.

If there are not church leaders who will stand up for you and me, I will use the knowledge that I have and go as far as I can with it; but I need your support.

I'm ready for change. How about you? I want to help better our community condition and our condition. I need other organizations who want to work hand to hand to make a change.

We need all churches who are willing to get together in this world and march for change and equal rights.If the gang members can come together, what about you and I?

We call ourselves ministers. This is the time that the people need you the most. They are looking for someone who God has led to the front line to lead His people, so that they can make it through the oppression and struggle.

We always want to attack the deadbeat daddies, but we don't want to give the deadbeat daddy a job. How can deadbeat daddies' buy milk without money? This system is designed to turn the poor into criminals.

The rich man is the "crook," and the "crook" is the "system." Who runs the system is the problem and the problem must be eliminated! Now!

Editor's Response

Dear Mr. Love,

Thanks for writing us and expressing your concern for a better society and, also, thanks for pointing out that it is "the system and the way the system is functioning," that is the point of address.

Of course, this point of address was the first point of address that the Black Panthers organized around over twenty-five years ago when the plight of poor people in the United States was not as desperate as it is today. We can see, for instance, how the homeless population has grown over the past 15 years, the squeezing out the local businesses by large corporations and multinational corporations, the growth of prison labor for profits — young black men and minorities making up over 80% of the prison population. The result is wealth being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. Which means poverty being spread out amongst more and more people.

All this is happening with our government's help. For example, in the recent election both major presidential candidates, Mr. Bush and Clinton, proposed free trade agreement and enterprise zones as economic solutions for the economy and unemployment. Both these projects are fundamentally "trickle down" economics. This economic philosophy claims that if money — in the form of tax incentives, common labor subsidies, and government contracts — is provided to the wealthy, they will invest it in production and create new jobs.

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Editor's Response

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The fact of the matter is that the money is not invested in jobs but in whatever will make them the most whether that be prison labor, jobs low-paid in Mexico or in enterprise zones. Thus, socialism does exist in this nation, at this time, ***national socialism*** *to a closed economic community for the wealthy, government assistance, government subsidies, government protection for corporations and free market, screws you over first, capitalism for the rest of us. We are left to compete with each other for what crumbs that "trickle down." It means no government assistance and protection for working people, cut-back in social services, health, education and welfare.*

The government of the U.S. is constitutionally bound to protect the interest of the people of this nation, all of us, not just the wealthy. The law says the government as a representative of, by and for the people, all people do not have a choice as to whose side it will be on, particularly when the well being of the peoples life, liberty and pursuit of happiness is on the line. When the government breaks that constitutional pack with the governed, it forfeits the right to rule. Those who says it will trickle down is either ignorant of the facts, or playing us all for fools and suckers. The "good" slaves have always looked to the master to throw some bones out the back door.

That is what the Commemorator will reveal in its pages. Not through rhetoric, but facts and figures. Remember, "figures don't lie, but liars figure."

Our studies have shown time after time profits of the wealthy (corporation) do not "trickle down," but are merely used to buy up more businesses to make more profits, or to invest in advance technology to cut the cost of labor and therefore to make more profits. Anywhere that enterprise zones have been implemented,or the "maquiladoras" that are the forerunners of the free trade agreement. What is always missed in this approach is that American workers are the primary market for American business, and if Americans aren't working, or don't get paid enough to but, expanding markets is the only way to sustain a business.

Even if we assume good intentions on his part, Mr. Clinton will not change the economic priority of the wealthy and those who work for the wealthy, the " comprador." His proposal to tax those who make over two hundred thousand dollars a year is a mere drop in the bucket, especialy, with nearly a $5 trillion debt and a $400 billion deficit each year. The COMMEMORATOR does not think it is possible this situation can be changed without fundamentally changing the priorities as they materialize through economic policy. Mr. Clinton will likely bring about a face-lift or tid-bits of some social reform, such as supporting abortion rights, or Gay rights legislation, while the majority of the population, working people are left to pay off the debt with incomes already too small to pay for subsistence.

The federal government does not have the political will to change the priority, regardless who is president, because it is indebted to the wealthy financial institutions of the world. These large financial institutions force all governments that owe them money to adhere to an austerity program of some form or another. This is currently happening in Mexico, Brazil, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. This is called privatization.

Wall Street's interest, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are forcing governments all over the world to sell public property to private interests, such as hospitals, prisons, fire departments, airports, utilities, etc. A lot of the U.S. federal debt is owned to foreign and international banks. Ten years ago, here in Oakland, the mayor sold the Oakland Auditorium to private corporations who are now making a profit off the former public facility. It now cost the city, and the tax-payer whose money built the facility, more money to use a facility that they once owned.

In New York City, the government is talking about selling Kennedy and LaGuardia Airport, just as the rest of the indebted countries of the world, for fear of losing their credit-rating and worst their positions of power within their country. The federal government has urged Los Angeles to sale the Los Angeles International Airport too. They bend over backwards to carry out the financial plans recommended by their creditors and large financial institution.

Brazil's austerity orders dictate producing and selling cattle to pay off it's debt, it is forced to cut down its rain forest and homes of the people who live there, to make grazing land, for the cattle, that will not go to local markets but will be sold in the international market to the highest bidder. The money from that sale will then go, not in the nation's wealth, but to the pay off the debt, to service a debt that will never be paid off.

The U.S. austerity orders are capital gains tax cuts, enterprize zones, free trade agreements, prison labor and cuts in government services to all its people not just it poor, leaving access only to those who can still purchase their own services.

All this will be done under the guise of "cutting government spending" , we will deregulate the food industry, transportation, construction, pharmaceutical industry, etc. For us that means, poor quality food, plane crashes, poorly constructed bridges, buildings, unsafe and ineffective drugs.

Under our present economic, political and social arrangement, as you correctly pointed out, the question "How can deadbeat daddies buy milk without money?" is a very relevant question to raise, especially when the government has moved to enact legislature to imprison "deadbeat daddies" for not paying up. The types of laws are coming down at a time when decent employment is decreasing and the economy is in a depression, when labor unions have been growing weaker and weaker, especially since the "trickle down" formula has become the order of the day. "Deadbeat dads" is the governments (state, local and federal) way of moving the question from lack of jobs that pay adequate wages, " systemic problem" to a personal problem, Good vs. Bad people.

The government is on a plan of cutting money spent on its people, in order to use that money to pay their creditors, the wealthy. That means that AFDC has to go, Planned Parenthood has to go, general assistance has to go, Medi Cal and Medi Care, has to go, Unemployment and Workers Compensation, has to go. (NOTE: Keep an eye on these programs, watch how they are phased out.)

For many, we won't miss them, they were put there as second or third rate medical care in the first place, part of the institution of poverty, but what it does mean, is that those able to appease their concern through giving the helpless a hand, many personal moral problems have that facade of assistance taken away and may find themselves closer than they would like, economically, to those they were handing out to yesterday.

When they finish rallying the uninformed around "dead beat dads" the only thing left of AFDC, or any government assistance will be the work provision, called workfare, where you work for your welfare. We call it Slavery, it's not voluntary - it's mandated.

Thank you and keep writing, we want to know how they are dealing with these issues in South Central.

Peace!

The Commemorator Newspaper

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COMMEMORATOR

Published by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party

"SERVING ALL OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES"
Volume 3 Number 5 March, 1993 Oakland, California

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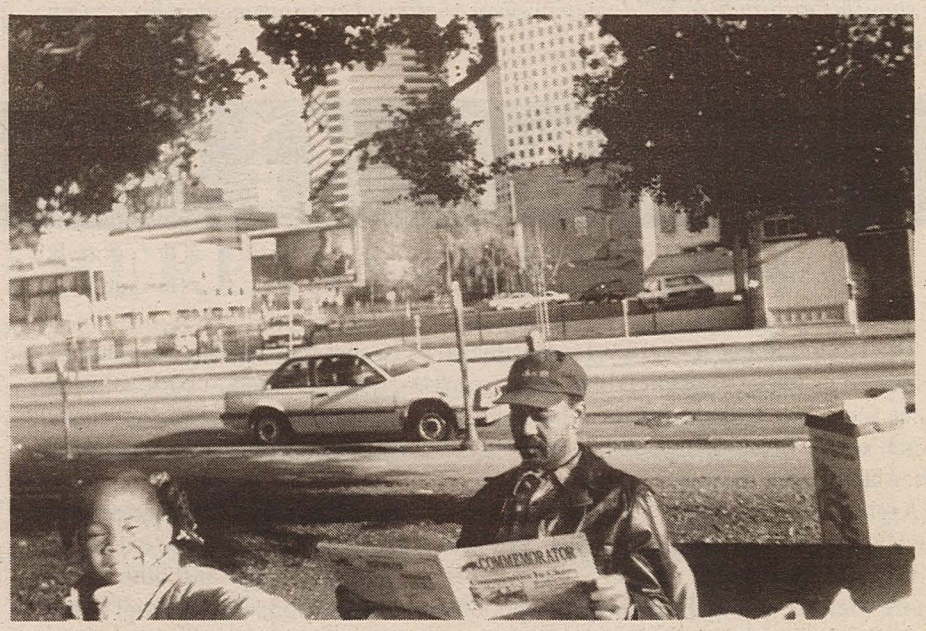
Commemorator's Expansion and Growth



From its initial distribution in Oakland, the Commemorator attracted the attention of former members and sympathizers of the Black Panther Party throughout the country.

More recently The COMMEMORATOR has expanded its audience to include many who had no prior history with The Party but who are looking for an analysis of what is happening in the country and what they can do about it. As a result The COMMEMORATOR is now being distributed in twelve states from coast to coast. Within California the paper is distributed in

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Behind The Pan-Islamic Movement

Many of those in Washington, DC, while representing the United States within the confines of the United Nations in New York City, the World Court, not to mention the various embassies that constitute the so-called Arab Bloc within the world today, would possibly do well to remember that there is a growing "third sentiment" rapidly emerging from that bloc, which is fed from other sources than propaganda, agitation and loans. It takes its nourishment from a growing suspicion of the strictly U.S. transliteration of the events of the day in such a manner that the statements, which once could be called ultra-Islamic nationalist propaganda, and some of the new, larger, Middle Eastern political movements are beginning to draw together.

This is reinforced by the course of history emerging as established by fact. The average merchant in Cairo, for instance, having watched the course of the war in Iraq, harbors a growing insistence in the back of his mind that U.S. aid had pre-paid the Iraq-Iran affair in an attempt to weaken Saddam Hussein long before "Satanic forces" within Western thinking were set loose to conduct a false campaign of hate and propaganda against Saddam, even before a plan of war could be instituted.

Two years later, after the only Western victory, the ability to conduct Operation Desert Storm, appeared within the American-dominated forums of the UN and other places. George Bush is now turned out of his office, our average Cairo merchant noted, how Saddam, coolly, after two years of war, conducts another Kuwait invasion as the undisputed leader of his people, while at the same time magnanimously offering a cease-fire line to Mr. Bush's competition, now in office. Saddam, in effect, threw him a pitiful form of baksheesh or bribe, given by a major player to the leader of servants to encourage his efforts to lead them to endeavors pleasing to himself.

In America, George Bush may be home in Houston after holding down his assigned role of leader under the Constitution. However, America is dealing with a trading bloc that began to seriously conduct international diplomacy 18 generations before the Christian era under the watchful eye of Zoroaster himself and nearly 4,000 years before the word of Allah was spoken through the mouth of Mohammed. In this ancient sphere, political bankruptcy, like the economic kind, was treated with exile often followed by suicide by the elders of Satan and seven years of self-sold slavery to the later leaders who would hitch their star to Satan's agents, leaving even them, the seeds of our current major bankruptcy statutes. They also left a current major leader free from baying packs of hounds and other forms of annoyance as he went about his business buying those who replace Satan's agents a chance to redeem the forces they now represented from policies against those who constituted and still do, the minor edges of his empire.

That message was among many that came in loud and clear. George Bush had been stripped of his leadership veneer and it was up to William Jefferson Clinton to show his gratitude to Saddam to prevent continued estrangement of his remaining allies.

It is to be remembered that Bush, in order to mount his attempt to punish Saddam Hussein for his infringement of UN Security Council resolutions, had to divert two U.S. battle groups from the 7th Fleet to provide take-off points for unmanned Cruise and Tomahawk missiles, as Arab Nations, including those under financial obligation to the U.S., refused them the air space loaned two years before. This, in the view of objective history seen by our mythical influence in Cairo, always proved to be the objective way to know who was winning a war, and more importantly, who was losing.

Darius of Persia, 8 centuries B.C., lost the world he had to gain as former allies refused him easement and supplies. Five centuries later, Alexander the Great turned back from conquest of his world when the core of his army was reduced to 45,000 Macedonians, and the 2 million other soldiers he commanded refused him a stand on their land to fight their own neighbors. When his Macedonian strength wavered, Alexander went home. The great Caesar, with his two legions, lost his momentum when he couldn't force the Egyptian army into friendly regions on land, and Marcus Antonius, like George Bush, left them scattered at sea in the same two regions, the Gulf of Persia and the Adriatic Sea.

The paragraphs above were donated by a friend with some experience in the region under consideration. They provide a face for an explanation of thinking absolutely contrary to any understanding allowed to U.S. diplomatic missionaries and much too logical for the confines of the obsessively lurid mind in places of power and position within the Western European press corps, in order to be able to present an abrupt departure from U.S. thinking, something larger than the headline of the minute. We must realize that ever since 936 A.D., the thinking of the great Islamic movement and presence of the Satan which drove it from Mecca into a pilgrimage army of its own after displaying itself for the first time several years earlier before the gates of Medina has been enunciated formally five times a day as Muslims prostrate themselves to the one real God. God's embodied presence can but allow Satan in many forces and places to attempt to rebuild, and all can clearly understand Satan's diverse presences in the hands and the minds of those who increase Satan's counter-attacks until all of Islam is forced to refrain from placing any further strain on one of their nations.

We have put the following together from the minds of that Cairo businessman, from the power behind the endless "new-think" movement, and the advisors and factory owners in Pakistan, oil dealers in Iran, and those who make common message with them on two or three minor issues.

Part of it is history and part of it becomes prophecy of the minds of men who toil under its influence; here are words contributing to it five times a day. One cannot conclude to have any sort of an education in the topic itself until one realizes that those advertised above have something to say that speaks for itself in the current set of everyday actions. It comes from the place where Satan may make many appearances, but usually is restricted to one form at a time until his forces are virtually destroyed or dramatically redeployed by men of better will.

The Great Satan

by Comrade Muslim Ibn Al-Haqq

The United States recognized many decades ago that Pan-Islamic movements, disguised as various national liberation struggles, could be used to build a fascist order accelerating the disintegration of the Soviet Union as a force for intercommunal scientific socialism and distracting millions of the hungry and disposed of other lands from their true enemy.

Afghanistan, where U.S.-backed so-called Muslim nationalists engaged the Soviet Army in a protracted guerilla-style war is a prime example of the execution of this grand strategy. But in Sudan, Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt and other lands where there is strong faith in Islam, populations disillusioned by corrupt semi-socialist or quasi-democratic bureaucracies are turning to religious warfare rather than to political formations capable of building production and ensuring distribution to all according to need.

The "Great Satan" realized that given the large concentration of Muslims and Islam within the USSR, "Pan Islamic Fundamentalism" would be a major influence determining the economic, social and political orientation of the new nation-states that would inevitably emerge from the Soviet Union's disintegration. Depending on where the best advantage for U.S. monopoly investment and control lay, the U.S. alternately backed Islamic mudjahedeen in Afghanistan, attacked them in Iran, encouraged Islamic fundamentalists in the former Soviet Union, aided the Philippine government in suppressing the Moro Liberation Front and aligned with the Wahabi Islamic guardians of Mecca, Medina and the oil reserves of Saudi Arabia.

Eduard A. Shevardnadze, former Soviet Foreign Minister under Gorbachev and current head of state of Georgia's governing council, recently endorsed air strikes against Muslim militants and other separatists in Abkhazia, a formerly autonomous republic within the Georgian SSR, now seeking to break away from Georgia. Islamic nationalism is also at the center of armed conflict in the central Asian former Soviet republic of Tadjikstan, while a similar situation is about to explode in Uzbekistan. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Catholic Christian Croats and Orthodox Christian Serbs were already battling each other over pre-socialist tribal feuds, with the newly reunited WWII occupier, Germany, once again backing Croatia, the extension of warfare to Bosnia/Herzegovina with a majority Muslim population has added yet another religious dimension to international intervention in what is left of a once-sovereign republic.

Global fascism is seeking as grand strategy to portray itself as an ally of Muslim-based so-called national liberation struggles under the pretense of sup-

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with a series of defense committees committed to the process of demonstration, should the lack of plaintiff motion and some of the premises of the defense, leave plaintiff as a target, not contestant, in a pre-trial shooting gallery of motions. Any one of those shots could drop the King situation into an uphill filing battle of national salvation for the case, rather than the already granted federally relocated trial. The only possible alternative is that Judge Davies publicly warn the defense for frivolous and capricious motions.

Two San Francisco groupings notified this paper of a planned procedure toward uncontested reinstatement of the matter against the Simi Valley 4, should the King case indictment go away, dimmed by whimsical prosecution, based on traditional motions, against the notion the federal grand jury was made to see only the minimum periphery of local behavior as to which the LA court system claimed itself savior. Else it is being allowed to become a simple addition to the Daryl Gates system of criminal justice, whereby legal aid attorneys spend their time categorizing simple chargements into pigeon holes of committed crime under LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) funding, run by federal attorneys using loopholes the present judicial system has chosen, that leave procedures under state arrangement of chargement for local complaint against one's betters too ridiculous to contemplate.

Currently King case defense teams fill the mail and the airwaves with tirades against the situation. Under the current need to explain absences and presences of organizing that maimed the nation, with the current case managing to explain the decimation of the case's surroundings, how do you suppose to bring justice in the face of the Simi Valley thing? This is where we shall begin.

Now that former Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates has resigned because of the Rodney King affair and the city has hired an African American to replace him, one might think that justice was right around the corner. But for Rodney King justice may be "three strikes you're out."

Strike 1) Last November a government memorandum that lays out the prosecution's strategy against the policemen who were seen on video by (tens of millions of) people beating King, was leaked to the defense attorney who represents the policemen. 2) The government delayed the trial until after the November presidential elections. Strike 3) Whereas the video showed more than a dozen officers at the scene now only four are indicted for civil rights violations (not criminal violations which would carry a much higher sentence. Now, the police officers who are charged with the beating are being courted by the media, giving the indicted officers a voice to the American public. Recently on the McNeil-Lehrer News Hours one of the officers charged with violating King's civil rights made light of the upcoming trial in a joking way saying he had nothing to worry about because the jury has to prove that he is biased and violated King's civil rights which they cannot do.

The upcoming trial of the four white policemen indicted for the beating of Rodney King will be held at the same time as the trial of the four black males (the LA 4-Plus) indicted for the beating of the white truck driver, Reginald Denny which was part of the aftermath of the King verdict. Their trial is scheduled for early next month.

Already folks are saying that the trial of the LA 4-Plus, accused of beating Denny, is being held at the same time as the trial of the four police officers indicted for beating Rodney King to allow the media to overshadow and play down the LA 4-Plus trial with the big, flashy, federal prosecution/ show trial of the four police officers, said Melvin Dickson, Chairman of the Commemoration Committee for The Black Panther Party.

"The tension is very high in the community, and people are looking for answers that will change the conditions of poverty and police violence they

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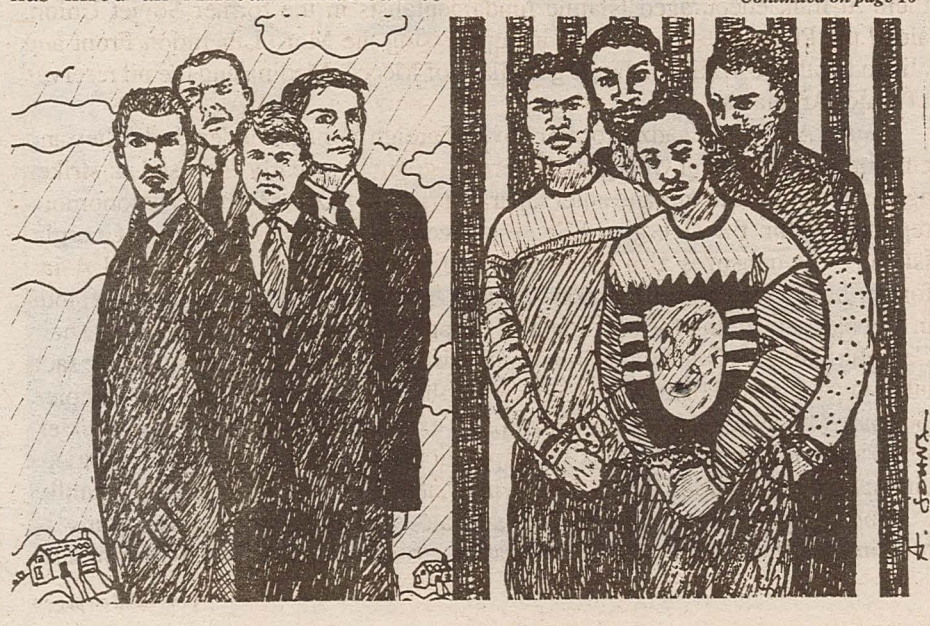

Non-College Bound Youth Neglected

by Karen Jewett

Our eduction system is in crisis. One aspect of this crisis is the deplorable neglect of non-college bound youth - by seemingly everyone but our friendly neighborhood recruiter. The current education system does not adequately prepare youth for entering the labor market (let alone provide the skills needed to critique and resist the exploitation of their labor if they do find a job).

While the military still spends about $10,000 merely to attract each military enlistee (over $2 billion per year), the federal government spends an average of only $9000 over the course of an 8-year period to train a non-college bound young person.

Federal Dollars Spent per Youth (16-24 yr. olds)

**Non-College*	*$ 9,000*
**College*	*$ 20,000*
**GI Bill Students*	*$ 29,000*
**ROTC*	*$ 65,000*
***Military Academy*	*$212,000*

***9,600 from Government GI bill contribution.**
****numbers from a 1991 GAO report on the Military Academies.**
Source: Training Strategies - Preparing Non-college youth for Employment, in the U.S. and Foreign Countries. GAO 1990.

There is no mandate in public education to provide options or career counseling to the 50% of young people aged 16-24 who don't go on to college. A recent study by the GAO found that "schools and employers in the community generally provide little systematic assistance to help non-college youth obtain employment. Left to themselves, many young people flounder in the labor market, remaining jobless or obtaining jobs that do little to improve their skills for future employment."

While both the curriculum and the counselors in our public high schools focus on the college-bound, the recruiters focus on the other youth. With promises of job skills and adventure, they can attract a large number of new recruits from this pool.

As counter-recruiters, it is just as important that we reach these young people as those who are attracted to the military by promises of money for school. Identifying apprenticeship programs in the trades, vocational training programs, and Government supported programs like JTPA and Job Corps, and then providing this information to students at "career fairs" and in counseling centers, is a vital

Few GIs will receive anywhere close to $25,000 in college benefits.

part of youth outreach. Speakers bureaus which unite with working people in the community can help young people identify alternatives and opportunities outside the military. Just because our school systems neglect these young people is no excuse for us to do it too.

The Montgomery GI Bill: The Myth of College $

All recently published recruitment literature promises money for school. Neither recruiters or the literature tell the potential economic conscript the whole truth about this money.

The Montgomery GI Bill seems to promise $10,800 for college. To be eligible, the soldier or sailor must, immediately upon enlistment, sign up and begin paying $100 a month during their first year of service. this $1200 "voluntary contribution" represents up to 14% of a new enlistee's paycheck.

The $1200 is non-refundable. In order to get any money from the Montgomery GI Bill, a soldier or sailor must receive an honorable discharge. A general discharge "under honorable conditions" doesn't make it. Discharges are supposed to be based upon the individual's record, but racism and other command biases often play key roles. One out of four GIs aren't discharged honorably. They won't get one red cent of college assistance, and the government keeps their $1200.

A bill passed by Congress for fiscal year 1993 makes one exception to these rules. Mid-ranking GIs, who accept bonuses to leave the military, can sign up for the Montgomery GI Bill as they exit. It is not clear what kind of discharge they will need.

Further, there are rules for length of service associated with the Montgomery GI Bill. In general, one must do at least three years of active duty (and continue

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Pan-Islamic

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porting human rights and democratic ideals. Toward this end, the U.S. has intervened in post-war Iraq on behalf of so-called anti-Saddam Hussein dissident Shiite Muslim groupings — the same branch of Islam that brought Ayatollah Khomeini to power in Iran. At the same time the U.S. is in the process of positioning itself as supporting an end to reported atrocities against Bosnian Muslims and others under a so-called "ethnic cleansing' program, colored by the implication that communist elements within the disintegrating former Yugoslavian federation tacitly approve if not openly sponsor "ethnic cleaning."

Notwithstanding the U.S. role in Afghanistan, the U.S. orchestrated, Arab backed Persian Gulf War was justified on the basis of defending the human and self determination rights of a U.S. leaning so-called moderate Muslim nation.

Iran represents a major threat to global fascism's U.S. led attempts to portray itself as a major arbiter of Muslim nationalist forces seeking protection from violation of human and self determination rights.

Global fascism seeks through this grand strategy to gain hegemony in the struggle to emerge a chief beneficiary of Islamic based and or influenced nationalism lying at the core of armed conflict in the former Soviet Union. It recognizes that these forces will help determine the economic, social and political orientation of whatever new nation-state emerges from this process, what boundaries they will exist within, as well as the effect this phenomenon will have on the allocation and redistribution of resources, including those of a military nature.

Iran, who calls the U.S. the "Great Satan", is not only current axis and vanguard of "Pan Islamic fundamentalist revolution", but is also geographically situated in close proximity to the former U.S.S.R. republics and their satellites which are currently experiencing a wave of armed conflict and separatists movements based in whole or in part on Islamic nationalism and/or fundamentalism, hence Iran as the rival heir apparent has already threatened to dispatch her "Revolutionary Guards" into Bosnia to halt reported Serbian Massacre of Bosnian Muslim separatists.

Iran has always been viewed as being strategically located, for geopolitical reasons. Most of the Persian Gulf's northern shores lie along Iran's southern coasts. Iran was a primary-access-land bridge between the former U.S.S.R. and the Persian Gulf. Additionally Iran has been in control of the largest of three strategic islands in the Strait of Hormuz, which is the entrance to the gulf, through which 20 percent of the world's oil is shipped.

The U.S. led grand strategy apparently includes shifting the axis of "Pan Islamic fundamentalism and nationalism," away from Iran, or potential Iran, (or potential Iran e.g., Iraq) to hand picked U.S. Arab proxies such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and United Arab League.

This strategy depends in large part on isolating Iran and potential Iran vis-a-vis political propaganda, disinformation, economic embargo, frozen assets and other means.

The intended internal destabilization within Iran, Iraq, et al., will theoretically give rise to internal opposition and dissident groups with a moderate position toward global forces headed by the U.S. These grouping are to be cultivated by the intelligence communities of the U.S. and select allies.

This analysis ultimately led to the now infamous "Iran-Contra" affair and "Iraq-gate" and an unknown number of similar plots and plans the real evidence of which is only now emerging. The U.S. reasoned that Iran and Iraq could be weakened both militarily and economically if the U.S. and its allies armed them both simultaneously. This would have the effect of causing both of them to spend high percentages of their gross domestic product on an arms race, while at the same time making them more predisposed to use of the "military option" to resolve regional disputes, such as arose between Iraq and Iran and Iraq and Kuwait.

The Iran-Iraq War served this strategy by accelerating isolation of Iran and Iraq while providing an opportunity for them to destroy each other at the same time. The Iran-Iraq War also increased the probability of Iran and Iraq becoming entangled in international disputes vis-a-vis their war efforts.

Iran began interdicting ships in the gulf from staging areas on Abu Musa, an island in the Straits of Hormuz, strategically situated at the entrance to the gulf. President Reagan's order authorizing Kuwait tankers to fly "Old Glory," the American flag in the gulf, could be reasonably seen as potentially provoking Iranian use of its military option against ships flying U.S. colors in the gulf. Similarly, the unexplained shooting down of an Iranian air-bus by the U.S. warship, Vincennes, killing at least 209 civilians, could also be reasonably foreseen as potentially provoking Iranian use of its military option against the U.S., with certain obviously disastrous results for Iran.

A target of opportunity arose to isolate and smash Iraq. When Iraq inquired of Washington what its response would be if Iraq exercised a military option in Kuwait to resolve a conflict over riparian rights stemming from Kuwait siphoning off of Iraq oil, the U.S. in essence replied it would not get involved. Iraq took the bait and invaded Kuwait. Iraq was then prematurely concentrated and isolated vis-a-vis "Dessert Shield," and "Desert Storm."

Now that Iraq has been successfully isolated, the focus is on Iran, such that U.S. Arab proxies become positioned

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So long as the fight is between these two forms of national socialism—the secular version proclaimed and enforced by the United States and the religious fundamentalist version advanced by Iran—the nations of this part of the world will be denied national liberation.

Famine

Continued from page 1

report has called on rich and poor countries to spend 25 billion dollars to fight malnutrition and curable diseases that kill 250,000 children a week.

Children world wide can be fed, receive clean water, basic health care and primary education for about 25 billion dollars a year, the report said.

According to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) this amount is, "less than Europeans spend on wine, less than Americans spend on beer, and less than Japanese spend on business entertainment."

A closer look at famine on a global scale will show that in countries where populations once had basic food to survive, famine is on the rise. For instance, there is hunger and privation in the former Soviet Union, which hasn't known that phenomenon since 1921. It is spreading all across Eastern Europe. It has overwhelmed the African continent, where entire populations are threatened with extinction by famine and pestilence, a secondary phenomenon which generally accompanies it. Uganda, for example, lost an estimated 60,000 people last year from AIDS

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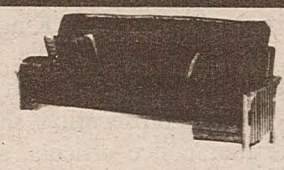

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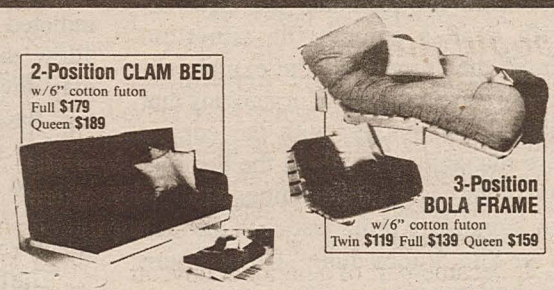

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Famine

Continued from page 6

alone and the numbers are doubling annually. One in three Ugandans is HIV positive. Entire villages stand empty. The disease has, as quickly and quietly as the plague that invaded Europe at the end of the Middle Ages, destroyed the working population.

India

The British paid, in parts of India, tribal or traditional leaders, for keeping the country in line, making sure that during the time that the United States and Egypt were raising the cotton that the people of India raised the indigo that made the dye that was sold. Without irrigation, their crops failed—not the indigo crop, of course—the crops by which they fed themselves.

Gandhi's first revolution after coming back from his South African trek was in the Punjab when he organized the peasants there against the English landlords whose eternal call for more indigo had left the entire province dying a slow death from hunger and starvation. That was followed by Typhus. Only rats continued to live in villages.

The idea that farm land lying bare, typhus spreading across the ground and cholera in the air, left Gandhi with the ability to organize against the indigo by organizing a boycott against English cotton. That's where the pictures that followed him all of his life with the spinning wheel came from. The people who were patriotic about the cause wore Indian homespun again, even the members of the New Congress Party who were rich.

"The number of poor American children is larger than the entire population of Somalia"

It became part of a national boycott that taught the English just how much 800 million customers for their cotton brought in, and that was just the beginning. The boycott was impressing the hell out of the English people and organizing the Indians even though they were divided by their religion — they were two-fifths Muslim and three-fifths Hindu.

Famine also takes place where the corollary of what we call "cottage industry" (work at home or in small factories) is taken away from the people and passed on to an industrial nation. There is nothing the people can do as work to procure food — so ipso facto, famine.

In 19th century England, the market had been taken by the mills, and the new factory jobs were in other places and couldn't employ all the people who had been sewing and spinning on their own — after all, fewer people, producing more and faster was the purpose of the factory. The factories also put the "out-of-work" cottage workers into the labor pool as propertyless, nameless workers in competition for the jobs with the unskilled, lowering still further the going wage.

The government of Somalia was at one time a client state of the USSR. During its entire history, not even the United States Department of Agriculture accused a USSR client state or that of the People's Republic of China of having a famine. That didn't leave them short of accusations, just no occasion for relating to famine.

There are two other countries that have cocoa on the exchange: Ivory Coast and Dutch Guiana — Surinam. Over the last ten years, Surinam has seen four revolutions, one of them led and run by sixteen men in the army and the only country is South America that has seen a 700,000 population loss over the last five years plus the fact that 50,000 of their so-called remaining "urban" population have deserted the cities and now live back in the trees with the aborigines. They've had the same organized famine as we saw in India — the cocoa production took the irrigation while the peasants starved.

They've had the same organized famine as we saw in India — cocoa production took the irrigation while the peasants starved.

20-40% of the world has receded back into savagery and barbarism since 1980, where organized civil government as a practical matter does not exist in the face of famine, national or tribal conflicts, and undeclared wars, from Yugoslavia and Somalia, which everybody knows about, to places we have mentioned such as Uganda and Surinam, to Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Philippines, India, currently in flames in a Hindu-Moslem conflict from one end to the other, much of Central America, Azerbaijan and Armenia, which are at war with one another, Somalia's neighbor Ethiopa and Libera. The list goes on. Those who sit and wait in an advanced industrial state don't even know what it means.

The government in Somalia is never mentioned in the press. Those trying to justify intervention say it doesn't exist. They (the press and the government) have declared a state of lawlessness which requires their attention. This is a way of saying the central government has lost its connection and its control over the indigenous, tribal, local and traditional governing bodies of the region.

THE CAUSE OF FAMINE

What Causes A Famine?

A famine is *organized hunger*. One can call a famine an Act of God, say there has been no rain in a nation; however, nations exist in the world today where huge sections of their most productive land get much less than the needed 16 inches of rain per year yet do not suffer famine.

Irrigation, of course, provides the cure for famine.

Irrigation, of course, provides the cure to famine in areas where rainfall is insufficient. Irrigation societies are among the oldest known governmental forms. A functional irrigation society requires that the producers on the land are working together. Despotic governments, governments which are unfair, do not dare trust the capacity for organizing that lies inside an irrigation society. And countries under extended periods of colonial and imperialist control have seen their historic irrigation systems disrupted and destroyed.

In ancient times when irrigation societies were organized, thirty million unschooled peasants could walk away from the masters or conquerors and say, "Run it yourself". Even if the strongest army in the land is poised to shoot them or lock them up, the soldiers can't run the thing anyhow. Those peasants are strong, because they are producers and they are united by cooperation through the irrigation system. Without all of them, it doesn't function, and with it they can produce what none can produce without it.

Somalia's present situation involves a struggle between forces exterior to the population, if not necessarily the nation, seeking to impose an organization on a population, while those suffering under the effects of famine, seek to organize themselves in the most efficient, cooperative manner possible to achieve the production which will end privation and death.

A variety of means are at hand for those with other ideas in mind than increasing production to meet the problem. Force, of course, is one. The use of insufficient quantities of food and other resources to buy off a portion of the population, causing them to fight amongst themselves is another. Removing those most capable of leadership at the local level or removing the need to organize to fight to change the organization of society to increase its production (thereby improving their individual situations) and blunting the need for inventiveness and scientific achievement is another means.

In each case the problem is the same: political and economic organization is imposed from the outside for the purpose of achieving profit for a few, which requires preventing forms of social organization that adhere strictly to the maximization of the production to feed people. Famine is ORGANIZED hunger, as opposed to society which is organized to feed the population. Civilized society must be organized to produce for all the people. That is its function. That's what makes it civilized.

Call To Action

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Pan-Islamic

Continued from page 6

as protectors of Muslim human and self determination rights. Toward these ends Saudi Arabia, who has purchased at least 13.7 billion in U.S. arms since 1991, the United Arab Emirates, the United Arab League and the United States have stated their intent to introduce and back a U.N. security council resolution against Iran stemming from a territorial dispute between Iran and the U.A.E.

The dispute between Iran and the U.A.E. centers around three islands in the Straits of Hormuz, which are strategically located at the entrance to the Persian Gulf. It was from Abu Musa, the largest of these three islands, that Iran staged its interdiction of shipping in the gulf as part of its war effort against Iraq. The islands in question were reportedly ruled traditionally by Sharja, one of seven of the United Arab Emirates. In 1971, the British dissolved their protectorate over the Emirates and control of the islands were divided between the Shah of Iran and the U.A.E. The Shah maintained a military garrison on Abu Musa and civil administration was divided between Iran and the U.A.E. After the Shah was overthrown , the Iranian revolutionary government declared sovereignty over the island. In 1992, talks between Iran and the U.A.E. over control of the islands broke down. The U.A.E. is now demanding all three islands be turned over to it. Saudi Arabia has accused Iran of expansionism and together with the U.A.E., the United Arab League and United States are now preparing to move in the U.N. Security Council against Iran and on behalf of the U.A.E. with regard to this issue.

Recently, U.S. led forces began to accelerate propaganda regarding an alleged Iranian military build-up and nuclear weapons program linked in part to the former Soviet Union, current Commonwealth of Independent States, marketing military hardware and technology as means of addressing internal economic crises. It has been reported Iran is emulating the methodology used by Saddam Hussein which involves purchasing "dual use," material which can be converted rapidly from peaceful uses to weapons production. Iran has also, allegedly, constructed at least ten potential nuclear weapons facilities as well as chemical and biological weapons for which they now have long range missile capability due to equipment and technology purchased from nations including, China, India and North Korea. It has been reported that 60 percent of all Iranian license applications from 1987 to 1990 were for dual use nuclear items and of 456 applications reviewed, 306 were approved. The isolating implications of this media blitz are clear.

The prize, for instance, in Iran's dispute with the U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, U.A.L. and U.S., is not so much about ownership, possession of the three islands in question, as it is about whether Iran will be able to maintain its grand strategic position as the heir apparent to the current surge of armed conflict and separatism in the former U.S.S.R. and its former satellites, which is occurring under the disguise of "Pan Islamic," or Muslim nationalist movement posing as struggle for national liberation. So long as the fight is between these two forms of national socialism—the secular version proclaimed and enforced by the United States and the religious fundamentalist version advanced by Iran—the nations of this part of the world will be denied national liberation. Global fascism is clearly using Pan Islamic fundamentalism to build a fascist new world order.

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The North American Free Trade Agreement and the New World Order

For many years the federal governments of United States, Canada and Mexico have been negotiating terms of a "free trade agreement" which, according to government agents, will create tremendous economic growth, new jobs and prosperity. Organized labor and newer forms of low-income worker organizations charge it will create massive unemployment in all three countries, undermining the last traces of health, safety and environmental protections, and bringing wages below subsistence level for all but a favored few.

Recently made popular by President Bush during the Persian Gulf War, the term "New World Order" is becoming increasingly clear to the lay person in America. We have witnessed the military dimension of it with the murder of over a half-million Iraqi civilians and the devastation of that country's infrastructure. We are just beginning to understand the economic dimensions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) internationally and (Enterprise Zones) domestically.

The NAFTA idea is not a new one, corporations have always sought locations where the labor is cheapest. The North American Free Trade Zone simply PUTS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN A POSITION ONCE AGAIN OF AIDING AND ABETTING THE PROCESS OF BUSINESS EXPLOITING LABOR.

Bracero Program

From 1942 to 1964 the Department of Labor used the Bracero Program to control and direct the flow of contracted Mexican migrant workers — known as braceros— into the United States. The governments of the U.S. and Mexico themselves, negotiated contracts between growers and workers, on the grounds that U.S. farm workers had left the fields in droves to fight in World War ll, and then the Korean War or work in the defense-related industries that kept the wars going. On the books, the Secretary of Labor was supposed to certify that there weren't enough U.S. workers at the time, the grower needed to harvest his crops, and that the existing wages and working conditions of American workers would not be adversely affected by the Mexican workers coming in to do the work.

In reality, the jobs were not well promoted or publicized. No real attempt to enlist U.S. workers was made. Growers didn't really try to enlist local labor because they knew importing migrant workers from Mexico, dependent on the grower for housing and other needs enabled them to be able to pay lower wages and be assured CONTROL over their workforce. And so, the growers were allowed by the Department of Labor to claim an artificial labor shortage in the U.S. so they could apply for Mexican braceros. In the bracero-dominated crops, the wages remained frozen for years, and in some cases even dropped.

The Bracero Program was supposed to be a "temporary" measure, but with grower interest Congress extended it time after time, until finally further extension was defeated and the program was officially shut down in 1964.

Two hundred thousand farm workers were suddenly jobless. Unemployment reached 50 percent among the manual laborers in border cities like Mexicali and Ciudad Juarez.

U.S. industrialists proposed the creation of a free trade zone on the U.S.-Mexican border that would both fulfill

With NAFTA the same concepts: enterprise zones go international — the parallels are obvious.

U.S. manufacturers' need for cheap labor and create jobs for Mexico's unemployed.

Thus was born the Border Industrialization Program (BIP) in 1965 with the *maquiladora* system of twin plants, one on either side of the border. Labor-intensive sweatshops were to be located in Mexico: the *maquiladoras* were used for sewing, welding, gluing and assembling and then shipped back to the U.S. for distribution.

They call the border the "new Hong Kong." At least 1,300 U.S.-owned factories, employing nearly 500,000 workers, churn out jeans, hospital gowns, saxophones, radar detectors, file folders, chain saws, and false teeth. In less than a decade, Nogales, a Mexican border town south of Arizona, has became a center of international commerce. The companies have been lured south by the free fall of the Mexican peso. In 1981, 25 pesos would get you a dollar. Now it takes 2500 pesos.

So Mexico now competes with Asia and Indonesia as a center for low-wage manufacturing jobs. Parts and raw materials are shipped to Mexico from American, South Korean, Japanese and European companies, assembled at low

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Prison Labor Exploited By Corporations

"As you know, there are many advantages to doing business in California. Now, I am very pleased to tell you about yet another way companies can gain a competitive edge, while helping to provide California's inmates an opportunity to rebuild their lives."

— Governor Wilson in a letter to business leaders

California Governor Pete Wilson is promoting a program that encourages corporations to increase their profits by using prison labor. It is called the Joint Venture Program (JVP), not just because it's set up in "the joint", but because the state and corporations collude to exploit prisoners. The JVP was established following passage in 1990 of Proposition 139, the Inmate Work Initiative.

A recent study pointed out that prison institutions are getting more money than schools.

The JVP program offers subsidies for corporations to relocate in prisons. According to a letter from the Governor, the companies will get low-cost long term leases, a ten percent California tax break, and, most importantly, a labor force that cannot say, "no."

California now joins the U.S. colonies that first set up prison labor programs: Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and The Trust Territory of The Pacific Islands. What was first imposed on the colonies of the United States is now being forced on the colonized populations in the United States.

The companies will pay the inmates the minimum wage, but the inmates will only get about 20% of these wages, and the state will take the rest. Through this program, writes former Boston Black Panther Ibn Al-Haqq, "the forces which are most hostile and reactionary toward labor have consolidated themselves in a position of power, through intermarriage between the government and big business against the interest of labor..."

For example, the first company to take advantage of the prisoners through the JVP was Data Processing and Accounting Services. In August of 1992, after the first 8 months of the program, Bob Tessler, the company president, bragged that the prisoners, "show up on time (and) they know what they're supposed to do."

Additionally, Sears is in the process of completing construction of a 1,000,000 square foot distribution center at the prison in Delano, California. It seems clear that locating the warehouse in a prison will take jobs away from the civilian labor work force. And, as is noted in a JVP report on the status of the program in May-June, 1992, Sears is well aware of the additional subsidies available because the Delano prison is also located within an enterprise zone (please see the coverage of enterprise zones in our September, 1992 issue). Essentially, for taking jobs away from the community, Sears will be getting a double subsidy, and making double profits, from the JVP and the Enterprise Zone programs.

An African American male inmate in Massachusetts argues that prison job programs, while making huge profits for corporations, will end up costing the state even more money. Writing in the California Service Workers Association magazine, he explained, "There are 450 inmates in MCI industries. MCI industries pulls down $9 million a year. Simple mathematics tells you that every 50 inmates equal $1 million. If inmates are paid $1.05 an hour then simple mathematics should tell you what the difference is." In other words, the inmate is being paid only $2,100 a year, while the corporation makes $20,000 in profit from the inmate's labor and receives a tax subsidy as well.

The state loses money on all sides. First, it loses corporate tax dollars through JVP subsidies. Second, prisoners traditionally have worked on jobs which at least nominally benefitted the public, like work on

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Will Somalia become another Vietnam?

There is a very real danger that Bill Clinton will inherit a situation not unlike that which John Kennedy inherited from President Eisenhower in Vietnam. We had committed troops to try to bolster a failing puppet regime placed in position after the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu demonstrated the disinclination of all concerned to continue the French colonial attempt at government. Kennedy was asked to add more troops in order to protect the generals who were running South Vietnam, after assassinating the President and his brothers, protecting them further in the face of organized popular discontent. He refused to do so. Kennedy was assassinated within weeks of the decision.

There are some who say a humanitarian mission at home would not be taken amiss, that if it were really humanitarian aid, and not armaments, we need it here.

The original policy was continued by Lyndon Johnson, who was eventually voted out of office because of the popular discontent engendered the continued failure of just that policy. In 1972 it became necessary for Richard Nixon to join the anti-war movement and promise to "bring the boys home" to a domestic economy not ready either for them or for peacetime production. The situation has not changed since that time. Those who control the country at the present time NEED a war to justify continued military appropriations, as well as to employ a portion of the American labor force (just remember the protests last year when Congress announced its hit list of bases which were going to be closed, protests over the cancellation of the economies of every town around them). They also needed it to attempt to galvanize a dissatisfied public behind the government.

The '72 election looked like a mandate from the people that suddenly stopped by what was supposed to be a small crime conducted by residents of his re-election committee.

There are forces who lately have announced that they were greatly dismayed when Alexander Haig, Former General, moved into the White House and one step away from the Presidency, but sometimes military control and intent is more effective through a civilian cover. In 1918 when the Kaiser was forced to abdicate, the German General Staff handed the nation over to the socialist machine — the right wing of it — and let them take the blame for the mistakes made at Versailles which bought the nation ten years of poverty and fear.

Then Adolf Hitler came along collecting public participation. They handed the nation over to him and followed him through. He invaded the Sudentenland, Czechoslovakia, took Austria and finally Poland and nearly all of western Europe. In each of his eastern advances, he claimed it was in protection of German nationals there and for humanitarian purpose. *It was a lie.*

There are still those that believe Hitler's power will be generated again,

Those who control the country at the present time NEED a war to justify continued military appropriations...

perhaps in the events taking place in the newly formed Fourth Reich. The slogans are already springing forth that Hitler "was all right in the beginning but he went too far" and "the stories of the holocaust are grossly exaggerated for political purpose." They are trying to organize a sector of that society which is trying to retain its jobs and its pay in the face of competition from refugees from other nations, rather than building a vehicle for transforming the society to one which produces enough for all to eat.

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L.A.

Continued from page 5

suffer from, but the mass media is making it seem like it is strictly a black/white problem. Although racism is an important factor it's not the only factor."

To ease the growing tension, Willie L. Williams, the new Los Angeles police chief, a black man and a former Philadelphia police chief, has been brought in to replace Daryl Gates, who the black community perceives as biased. Williams headed the Philadelphia police department where eleven blacks were murdered, including women and children and several city blocks were burned down when police dropped an incendiary bomb on their house. In Philadelphia.

Immediately after the Rodney King verdict last spring, the city, with Governor Wilson's and President Bush's support, implemented a "Weed and Seed" plan which allowed the police, with National Guard and U.S. Army backing, to arrest, search and seize people and property without due process.

Recently, Los Angeles Mayor, Tom Bradley implemented another plan, called "Neighbor to Neighbor." This plan seeks to hire 10 coordinators for "recruiting volunteers — including parents, gang members, teachers, and ministers — who will visit shopping centers, housing projects and schools each day of the trials," according to the Chris DeBono, organizer for WSWA.

City officials issued a statement to the press that the city "will find whatever resources necessary in dollars or volunteer time to get the job done."

A growing number of city officials have stated publicly their support for the Mayor's plan. Joe Wachs, a city councilman, said, "police training and planning should be well publicized, along with the Neighbor to Neighbor plan."

County Supervisor Ed Edelman says "a certain amount of mediation is fine, but in the end the most important resource is having adequate law enforcement to assure that disturbances can be quelled immediately."

"People who are thinking of doing something wrong should know they should forget about it," Wachs said at the LA Times.

The new police chief, Willie Williams and Sheriff Sherman Block have giving the city officials assurances that "law enforcement will be better prepared for any unrest."

But, according to a number of South Central residents and community activists, if the city officials took the same attitude toward fighting poverty, police harassment and brutality, then there would likely be less protest and rioting.

B. Kwaku Duren, Chairman of the Free the LA4-Plus Defense Committee, who led the protest last December at the very same site of Florence and Normany Aves., So. Central Los Angeles, stated that the demonstration was peaceful until the police began to harass people by shoving, pushing people and demanding people stop passing out leaflets.

Some critics said that there was a traffic problem, but it should have been handled by *traffic officers*. Duren further stated that "Concerns over traffic do not justify the use of para-military force, what people were doing was exercising their first amendment rights."

Most people from the Black community believe that the LA4-Plus (Damien Williams, Eugene Miller, Henry Watson, and Gary Williams), who are now held on $250,000 bail each with 56 charges against them, will not receive justice.

Ms. Georgia Dorsey (black woman), church-going and activist, strongly believes in peaceful mass protests as popularized by Martin Luther King, Jr., points out that when it's only a few demonstrators they can walk over you, but when you have thousands, including professionals, e.g, doctors, lawyers, etc., like during the Martin Luther King, Jr. days, they are less likely to violate your rights, and if they do you have a lot of people backing your case.

"People riot and protest because of injustice and oppression. The Los Angeles police acts in a fascist manner because they're trained that way," stated Michael Zin Zin, former Black Panther member and coordinator of the Coalition Against Police Abuse.

When asked to comment on the city's "Neighbor to Neighbor" plan, Zin Zin said, "This plan is fascist to the core because the city is doing exactly what it's supposed to do — and that's nothing — nothing about the economic conditions that breed poverty and police brutality in the first place.

"This 'Neighbor to Neighbor' program goes hand in hand with the city's 'Weed and Seed' plan and they are designed to create the illusion that the city is doing something worthwhile. But, we know what they're about — training citizens to snitch on their neighbors and allowing policemen to violate people's constitutional rights. Of course, this produces a higher level of fascist repression.

"This is all a part of the cover-up against the Rodney King beating and the four brothers who are now being held on $250.000 bail each, while the four white policemen are out on bail and are being hailed by the media," he further commented.

According to Dickson, "They would like nothing better than a race war to keep people of different cultures divided. It only serves the status quo when people are divided. Fighting one another instead of their common oppressor. People have to look at the fundamental question of class to pin-point the economics of racism — the real enemy"

NAFTA

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cost, and sent back under sopecial tariff provisions.

Tijuana, a leading border city just 15 miles south of San Diego, has over 400 *maquiladoras*, most of them small sewing and sorting operations. Juarez, the other kingpin city of the north, ushered in the *maquiladora* age 20 years ago. Today, although it's said it has all the maquiladoras it can handle, more still come. Many Mexicans lament "maquilazacion," saying that Mexico is becoming a sweatshop for industrial countries. Bishop Ricardo Watty Urquidi of Nuevo Laredo said, "Our weak economy could become enslaved economies of these larger powers, which undermines the living standards of poor and working-class Mexicans."

Pursuit of cheap labor in the NAFTA's finds its complement in the growth of enterprise zones within the United States. Direct, overt aid and intervention of the U.S. government in clearing the way for that pursuit is apparent in both. With EZs it is the deliberate softening or the elimination altogether of the business taxes, environmental and occupational health and safety standards required of businesses that operate in our communities, to offering government subsides that make it attractive for businesses to relocate in our communities.

Wages in the zoned areas are kept artificially low, by a government subsidy

With NAFTA the same concepts: enterprize zones go international — the parallels are obvious.

Enterprise zone

Wages in the zoned areas are kept artificially low, by a government subsidy for all wages below a certain amount, usually 150% of the "minimum wage." Some zones like that which was proposed and defeated for Los Angeles' super zone, will waive minimum wage requirements and others require hiring from a pool of people in "first choice" programs, like welfare recipients seeking job training or forced to work for their welfare.

Wages in Mexico for a U.S. company previously paying assembly workers $5.00 per hour, is 50 cents an hour. For instance, a garage door opener factory in Nogales, Mexico called The Chamberlain Group of Chicago sells one garage door for $149 retail price. The price of that one door equals a full day's wages for 20 of the company's workers.

In some cases enterprise zones are exempt from meeting environmental standards by local government, tax credits are awarded to companies in the zones by local governments, governments promote and encourage establishment of zones.

While NAFTA, on a international level, is promoted by governments, the United States, Mexico, Canada and multinational corporations to maximize profits through tax subsidies and wage control, EZs, on a national level are being promoted by U.S. government on local, state and federal levels purported as solutions to urban unemployment. Both undermine the power of worker representation.

While Mexico made a public effort to appear environmentally concerned while the treaty was being debated, the reality of a highly polluted lower Rio Grande Valley is a more realistic predictor of Mexico's intentions.

From a truthful economist's standpoint, the only legitimate way to make businesses grow and create new jobs is to expand productivity in the work place, and to expand into new markets. From the US perspective this program does neither. Rather it is an attempt to exploit the existing American market using low wage workers instead of more productive but capital intensive technology.

The Commemorator is a participant in the fight to just say no to EZs, that instead, through organization of actual prepresentation, policies and programs that build up the economy must be installed.

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POLICE VIOLENCE

On May 13, 1985, the house at 6221 Osage Avenue in Philadelphia was bombed by government instigation, as a response to the resistance of a group of people to eviction. These people had radical politics and spoke out against racism in the city, and believed in defending their community. 11 people died and 61 homes burned as a result of this bombing. A County Investigating Grand Jury, called into existence by D.A. Ronald D. Castille on May 15, 1986, exonerated all but the late Move participants, (six adults and five children who had died in the bombing and the one survivor, Ramona Africa) from criminal liability. The news of their decision came on May 3, 1988, very quietly at a small news conference.

The amount of time that passed between the beginning of the investigation and the final decision of the grand jury could only aid in the cover up of unwanted information and the tainting of the most salient testimony.

The idea of using a crane and 2,000lb. ball to knock the bunker off the roof, had been examined and dismissed as being too expensive. The mayor had reported that he was unable to get the money for that option. After the bombing, one of the police officers, Powell, was asked to write a memo stating that the crane and ball idea was not feasible. He testified that, although the crane option had been workable, he remembers "thinking in depth, should I or shouldn't I do it, and I remember saying, well, maybe I will do it, because I don't want the world to know that we burned down sixty-one houses because they wouldn't give us $6500."

Police nation-wide are displaying a tendency of over reacting

August 15, 1988, Sacramento, Ca. a black man, Jerry Darnel Fry, suffering from a mental condition requiring medication, rest and medical care was at the home of his mother, Pearl Rozell, where he was recuperating when she phoned police to help her get him to a hospital after her son had not taken prescribed medication. Mrs. Rozell reported that, after being told by the local mental health clinic that there were no longer services to see outpatients in their homes and encourage them to continue their prescribed treatment, she called the police in desperation to ask if they would take her son to the hospital. When the police arrived, Mrs. Rozell said she told them she "wanted to make sure they didn't hurt him." Police assured Mrs. Rozell, by her own account, that if extreme measures had to be taken they would only use a special tranquilizer pellet. Watching from the porch of her mother's house next door, Mrs. Rozell saw the SWAT team enter her house after shooting tear gas into the home, then heard four shots that killed her son.

August 25, 1992, Rosebud Abigail Denovo, a 19 year old woman, active in the attempts to block the University of California's building of volleyball and basketball courts in the historically user-developed Peoples' Park, broke into the chancellor's mansion on the U.C. campus carrying a machete and a hunting knife. Rosebud had triggered a silent alarm in the mansion and the U.C. police had entered the place and brought Chancellor Tien and his wife out of the building and called in the Oakland police with canine patrol. Rosebud was shot dead.

The official police story had been that an Oakland police officer had discovered Rosebud in an upstairs bathroom, that she had pushed a door open making a threatening motion with the machete, causing the officer to fall into a bathtub and that he had shot her in the arms and chest in self defense. According to the Coroners' report, however, Rosebud was shot four times: twice in the back from above, and once in each arm.

On November 5, 1992, Malice Wayne Green, 35, of Detroit, was beaten to death with a flashlight by two police officers as five other officers watched or took part. Green died of head injuries in a hospital emergency room.

It was not clear when the beating started and how many officers were physically involved. Police Chief Stanley Knox said initial reports showed Green was beaten while still inside his car and again outside, even after he was handcuffed and paramedics arrived.

According to a senior police official, when Green was stopped by officers Nevers and Budzyn they asked Green for his driver's license, and he got his driver's license out of the glove compartment of his car. The officer told him to drop it, Green did not and the officers began hitting him on the hands with their 3-pound flashlights. The struggle quickly escalated and Green was dragged from his car. The beating continued as backup police units arrived, and at least one other officer also struck Green, an official said.

The two white plainclothes officers, Larry Nevers, 52, and Walter Budzyn, 47, were suspended without pay. Also suspended were four white officers and one black sergeant who are believed to have seen the beating, according to Stanley Knox, Police Chief.

In contrast, the Oakland police officer Craig Chew who shot Rosebud A. Denovo in the chancellor's mansion on the University of California was taken off active duty for two weeks only, and no further action was taken by the police accepting his claim of self-defense.

Officer Chew had only recently recovered from being shot five times by a 15 year old in Oakland. By any standard protocol, the decision to send in this officer was inappropriate.

The media hyped up Rosebud's mental instability for taking such an action, but she had been homeless for several months in Berkeley, abused as homeless people are all over the country, and was very angry over the University's take-over of the Peoples' park.

In any case, the police did not take this into consideration though they do have codes of behavior in cases where emotionally disturbed people are concerned: no tear gas was used, no shooting to disarm, no use of the police dogs nor calling in of mental health professionals.

An in-depth investigation into the shooting death of Rosebud A. Denovo has been demanded by her parents and has been taken on by the lawyer who was representing her around the Peoples' park protests.

"Cuts in funding for mental health from the federal level on down have... swelled the ranks of the homeless with thousands of patients suffering from mental illnesses..."

Similarly, in the Fry shooting case in Sacramento, police did not appear to be following any protocols for dealing with mentally disturbed people.

Marietta Christopher, a family friend and chair of the ad hoc Committee of Friends and Relatives of the Fry Family pointed out, "Cuts in funding for mental health from the federal level on down have not only swelled the ranks of the homeless with thousands of patients suffering from mental illnesses, but have forced public health practitioners to drop or distort critical follow-up treatment." Members of the victim's family reported that Fry had been a patient at a local mental health clinic for ten years. In the past year, however, according to Mrs. Rozell, "the clinic had stopped making follow-up calls when patients missed appointments, and at the time the police shot him, Fry had been without his prescribed medication for a month."

In each of these cases the response was widely condemned as inappropriate. The punishment clearly did not fit the crime. Police nation-wide are displaying a tendency of over reacting. One policeman stated in the Green case that "nobody knows what it's like out there."

Almost any law enforcement officer can identify/locate the areas of high crime in any community in which they work because those areas are generally where living/working conditions are worse. So if the source of rising crime can be located in and around conditions of poverty, then the answer to stopping the rising crime rate is to fight poverty itself. Anything short of that is dealing with symptoms and the problem will continue to grow. The choices are clear. Policeman will either join in the fight against poverty as a means of addressing crime, or he will be fighting a genocidal war against his poor brothers and sisters.

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Distribution

Continued from page 3

San Diego, Santa Ana, Los Angeles, Watsonville, Stockton, Sacramento, in addition to 80 sites in the neighborhoods of Oakland. Distributors are also at work in Oregon, Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Washington.

The COMMEMORATOR is an all volunteer publication to advance founding principles and goals of the Black Panther Party under the rubric of Dr. Newton's intercommunalism. With this understanding the paper is attempting to broaden its ties to more African-American and working class communities. The COMMEMORATOR has highlighted conditions of oppression in communities around the country and provided a beacon of awareness of the ever changing political situation.

...during the era of the BPP there were material and social problems in black and other oppressed communities but they had not reached the level and the degree of suffering poor and working communities face today.

Undoubtedly much has changed over the past generation, but much remains the same.

In the 60's and 70's there was no Free Trade Agreement, no Enterprise Zone. The levels of homicide and systematic death, genocide, and incarceration of black males were only a fraction of what they are today. That is to say, during the era of the BPP there were material and social problems in black and other oppressed communities but they had not reached the level and the degree of suffering poor and working communities face today.

Today the health crisis is escalating as we see in the growing tuberculosis, measles, and AIDS epidemics. The overall economic and social conditions twenty-five years ago were a drop in the bucket compared to the current conditions which our communities face-starvation and malnutrition. American people across race, sex and culture lines are dying from overexposure, homelessness, and a lack of proper health care.

A generation ago, there was more hope for a better tomorrow in our black and other oppressed communities. Because we were not able to continue to move forward then, today you have to almost laugh to keep from crying at the ever-growing worsening conditions. Despair has replaced progress and hope. Many families that were identified as "middle class" are becoming restratified into lower rungs, to the extent that they can not look forward to a better future for their children. In the past many believed all you had to do was get a "good" job, work hard, save a little and before you knew it bingo — "you were making it."

That illusion has been shattered, facing reality is a struggle and the product is change. One of the main objectives of the paper, from its inception, is to overcome "official" media portrayal of the BPP — the "Bad"- BPP vs the "Good"- government. By not presenting accurate description of the organization, the government, i.e., the powers-that-be were able to divide and conquer/undermine the positive contribution of the Party. By discrediting individual leaders and organizations through the media the government and the ruling class were in a better position to undermine organization working for fundamental change. Out of 295 counter intelligence operations 233 were carried out against the BPP.

Of course some of the FBI counter intelligence operations occurred as a reaction to premature concentration of forces against U.S. government injustice toward poor and minority commnities arising out of BPP inexperience leadership experience in dealing with the government despite individual heroic actions. These are some of the lessons to move forward as we continue that struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice.

In November, 1990, months after the rally to commemorate the late Dr. Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the BPP, The COMMEMORATOR began a local publication, well received by people who would like to see the struggle continued, i.e., fundamental change occurring in this country as well as around the world. This of course can not happen without an examination and evaluation of the past practice and policies of the progressive movements in the past. This could only be done on the basis of honesty — dealing with reality and making sure the facts are taught anyway you cut it.

Since November 1990, the paper has been reaching communities across the country that are interested in what the paper has to say and what leadership it can provide to the broader question of the advancement of oppression in this country. Many of these are hinterland and farmworker communities. This kind of organizing falls in line with Dr. Newton and Bobby Seale's approach to seeing the big picture as the point of departure.

An exception to the general militant Movement of much of the 60's and 70's, elements the BPP by putting the intercommunal approach into practice were able to establish working relations and contacts with poor rural communities through the Party's many programs. These are the communities much of the urbanized Black Power movement and much of the radical movement of the 60's overlooked in many instances, failing to recognize the reality that *many* poor communities are oppressed and their oppression has been growing as working and poor urban communities. These communities are subjugated by the same goverment and the same economic forces. Without broad solidarity with working and poor communities the other side isolated and then neutralized through various counter intelligence operations.

At one of our new distribution sites in Medford, Oregon, where there is a large Mexican farmworker community, Latinos experience police brutality as poor African American communies experience in major urban city where black people are largely concentrated. Mexicans are regularly stopped for no other reason than for being Mexican (its informally called "Driving While Hispanic"). The standard reason that police officers give for stopping them is that it is a policy that the city supports because of the so-called illegal-immigrant-from-Mexico question, and because many drug couriers are alleged to be Hispanic in the area.

Therefore, the COMMEMORATOR if it is to carry the legacy and principles of the BPP must reflect the struggle of the various poor and oppressed communities that are struggling for life as well as the survival of the black community — this is the original vision that led the BPP — in every state distributors are needed now, to join the network bringing The COMMEMORATOR to high schools, neighborhoods, prisons, and businesses. If you can get the paper out in your community, call or write: (510) 652-8828 4432 Telegraph Ave. P.O. 62/Oakland, CA 94609.

Youth Neglected

Continued from page 5

serving in the inactive reserves) in order to receive benefits. This means that if a person is discharged early, for any reason, even with an honorable discharge, the opportunity of college money, and their own $1200, is lost. According to P.J. Budhan, a columnist for the Army/Navy Times, "The only people who ever get a Montgomery GI Bill refund are the survivors of the folks who die on active duty."

Recruiters often sit in front of a big sign which blares, "$25,000 For College." This chimerical $25,000, however, is concocted by combining the maximum $10,800 from the Montgomery GI Bill and up to $14,200 from the individual services' College Funds. The College Funds are available only to "participants in selected ratings with skills or specialties which are experiencing personnel shortages" according to the fine print in recruitment literature. The enlisted person must take advantage of this Fund during their active duty period. Although recruiters (and commanding officers) sometimes claim to encourage enlisted personnel to "further their education while on active duty" the nature of work assignments and the transience of military life make it difficult or impossible for most recruits to take advantage of this money. Few GIs will receive anywhere close to $25,000 in college benefits.

Finally, if a GI actually has made their $1200 contribution, completed their active duty enlistment, received an honorable discharge, and is actually using their GI Bill benefits to attend college, they're not home-free yet. If the next crisis occurs before their 8-year-indentured-servitude is complete, their education can be interrupted an any time. The 'beneficiaries' of the Montgomery GI Bill may well find themselves in the war-zone instead of the classroom.

Karen Jewett works for CCCO-WR and co-edits the newsletter of the National Campaign to Demilitarize Our Schools.

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ARCHIVES

Why We Are Not Racist

By Bobby Seale
from *Seize The Time*

The Black Panther Party is not a black racist organization, not a racist organization at all. We understand where racism comes from. Our Minister of Defense, Huey P. Newton, has taught us to understand that we have to oppose all kinds of racism. The Party understands the imbedded racism in a large part of white America and it understands that the very small cults that sprout up every now and then in the black community have a basically black racist philosophy.

Our Minister of Defense has taught us to understand that we have to oppose all kinds of racism.

The Black Panther Party would not stoop to the low, scurvy level of a Ku Klux Klansman, a white supremacist, or the so-called "patriotic" white citizens organizations, which hate black people because of the color of their skin. Even though some white citizens organizations will stand up and say, "Oh, we don't hate black people. It's just that we are not gonna let black people do this, and we're not gonna let black people do that." This is scurvy demagoguery, and the basis of it is the old racism of tabooing everything, and especially of tabooing the body. The black man's mind was stripped by the social environment, by the decadent social environment he was subjected to in slavery and in the years after the so-called Emancipation Proclamation. Black people, brown people, Chinese people, and Vietnamese people are called gooks, spicks, niggers, and other derogatory names.

What the Black Panther Party has done in essence is to call for an alliance and coalition with all of the people and organizations who want to move against the power structure. It is the power structure who are the pigs and hogs who have been robbing the people; the avaricious, demagogic ruling-class elite who move the pigs upon our heads and who order them to do so as a means of maintaining their same old exploitation.

In the days of worldwide capitalistic imperialism, with that imperialism also manifested right here in America against many different peoples, we find it necessary, as human beings, to oppose misconceptions of the day, like integration.

If people want to integrate — and I'm assuming they will fifty or 100 years from now — that's their business. But right now we have the problem of a ruling-class system that perpetuates racism and uses racism as a key to maintain its capitalistic exploitation. They use blacks, especially the blacks who come out of the colleges and the elite class system, because these blacks have a tendency to flock toward a black racism which is parallel to the racism the Ku Klux Klan or white citizens groups practice.

It's obvious that trying to fight fire with fire means there's going to be a lot of burning. The best way to fight fire is with water because water douses the fire. The water is the solidarity of the people's right to defend themselves together in opposition to a vicious monster. Whatever is good for the man, can't be good for us. Whatever is good for the capitalistic ruling-class system, can't be good for the masses of the people.

We, the Black Panther Party, see ourselves as a nation within a nation, but not for any racist reasons. We see it as a necessity for us to progress as human beings and live on the face of this earth along with other people. We do not fight racism with racism. We fight racism with solidarity. We do not fight exploitative capitalism with black capitalism. We fight capitalism with basic socialism. And we do not fight imperialism with more imperialism. We fight imperialism with proletarian internationalism. These principles are very functional for the Party. They're very practical, humanistic, and necessary. They should be understood by the masses of the people.

We don't use our guns, we have never used our guns to go into the white community to shoot up white people. We only defend ourselves against anybody, be they black, blue, green, or red, who attacks us unjustly and tries to murder us and kill us for implementing our programs. All in all, I think people can see from our past practices, that ours is not a racist organization but a very progressive revolutionary party.

Those who want to obscure the struggle with ethnic differences are the ones who are aiding and maintaining the exploitation of the masses of the people: poor whites, poor blacks, browns, red Indians, poor Chinese and Japanese, and the workers at large.

Racism and ethnic differences allow the power structure to exploit the masses of workers in this country, because that's the key by which they maintain their control. To divide the people and conquer them is the objective of the power structure. It's the ruling class, the very small minority, the few avaricious, demagogic hogs and rats who control and infest the government. The

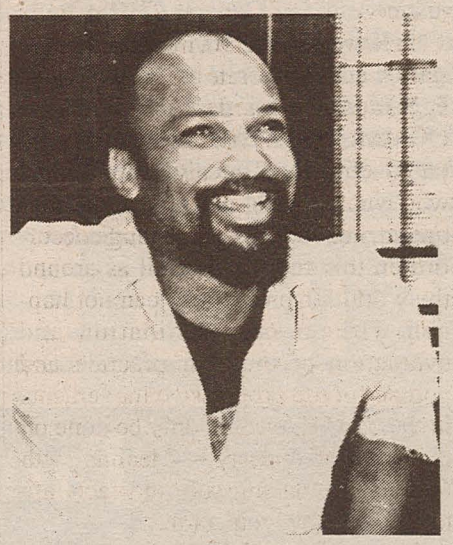
We do not fight racism with racism. We fight racism with solidarity.

ruling class and their running dogs, their lackeys, their bootlickers, their Toms and their black racists, their cultural nationalists — they're all the running dogs of the ruling class. These are the ones who help to maintain and aid the power structure by perpetuating their racist attitudes and using racism as a means to divide the people. But it's really the small, minority ruling class that is dominating, exploiting, and oppressing the working and laboring people.

All of us are laboring-class people, employed or unemployed, and our unity has got to be based on the practical necessities of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, if that means anything to anybody. It's got to be based on the practical things like the survival of people and people's right to self-determination, to iron out the problems that exist. So in essence it is not at all a race struggle. We're rapidly educating people to this. In our view it is a class struggle between the massive proletarian working class and the small, minority ruling class. Working-class people of all colors must unite against the exploitative, oppressive ruling class. So let me emphasize again — we believe our fight is a class struggle and not a race struggle.

Free Geronimo ji Jaga (pratt) Political Prisoner U.S.

Former Black Panther leader, Geronimo ji Jaga (Pratt) has now spent 21 year in Califonia prisons and is one of the world's longest-held political prisoners, according to the International Campaign to Free Geronimo.



The government's own documents indicate that Geronimo is innocent of the crime for which he was convicted: the senseless murder of a white school teacher on a Santa Monica tennis court in 1968. At the time of this killing, Geronimo was attending a week-long Black Panther Central Committee meeting 400 miles away in Oakland, California. While the FBI had Geronimo and the Panther leadership under constant surveillance the government claims to have mysteriously "lost" their records for this period.

Police agent Julio Butler was the main witness against Geronimo. It was his testimony that convicted Pratt. In 1968 Butler infilterated the Southern Chapter of the Black Panther, in which Geronimo was a principal leader and provided information to the FBI. The truth about Butler as well as the suppression of statements indicating that others had done the killing, the planting of police spies in the defense camp, and many other abuses of justice were discovered only years later when Geronimo won access to FBI files...

In the Spring of 1991, armed with compelling new evidence of Geronimo's innocence, which included sworn affidavits by former Panther leaders Bobby Seale, David Hilliard, Kathleen Cleaver, and Emory Douglas that they were with Geronimo in Oakland at the time of the Santa Monica crime, attorneys filed a motion for a new trial. Within 24 hours of the delivery of hundreds of pages and evidence, the Los Angeles courts issued a one sentence ruling turning down the case.

Kept in prison solely because of his political history, Geronimo had served more time than murderers and criminals whose guilt was never in question, but whose ideology was more in keeping with the government's.

Continued on page 20

Justice

Continued from page 2

plan" to defense attorneys for the four officers, and the infiltration of the defense team for the LA4 by an admitted FBI informer who said he was told to sabotage the defense.

By comparison, for instance, we saw Richard Nixon lie to the American people, lie to Congress, break the law, attempt to cover it up, and was not prosecuted for any of these crimes, instead, he was allowed to resign and continue play a role in U.S. politics! We've seen the CIA investigated for violations of its own charter, spying on American citizens and planning assassination attempts with no one prosecuted and no measure taken to prevent a repeat performance, thus, Iran-Contra. Finally, we remember the murder of three civil rights workers, one Black and two White, in Jackson, Mississippi, by Klansmen. When justice failed for them, locally (like Rodney King the all-White jury came from the same White community that the White defendants did), the federal government rode in on its white horse and, like the Rodney King case, charged the Klansmen with (not premeditated murder, but) "violation of these three young men's civil rights," and called it "justice."

Whenever there is a mega-event where the question of the government's credibility is on the line, they call on their "independent polls" to gauge the situation and convince us that more of us agree with their actions than not. So, somehow those of us who disagree always end up in the minority.

If the government has to send their folks, and particularly members from the wealthy class, to jail to justify the system, they will, like Michael Milken, the junk bond genius, who spent a year and a half in a federal country club/prison on a ten year sentence and is now free having paid a billion dollar fine and retaining a comparable amount to live on. Or Leona Helmsley, who flew a coporate jet to report to a federal prison in Lexington, Kentucky, and was delivered to the prison by a private helicopter. The government needed to give the impression that the criminal justice system serves all, but while Geronimo ji jaga Pratt and Leonard Peltier have been exonerated of any wrong doing, yet are still being held behind bars. When that same justice system comes in contact with low-income blacks and people of other low-income communities, something strange seems to come into play — and that "something strange" is simply class and race. U.S. prisons and jails are not filled with the likes of the Michael Milken, Richard Nixons, Oliver Norths, et.al. The jails are instead filled with members from the black and low-income communities, including the four black males accused in beating the white truck driver in South Central LA, an incident sparked by the injustice to Rodney King. Most are in jail for economic and political crimes against an unjust economic and political system.

Recently, President Bush retained former Attorney General Griffin Bell as his lawyer in the Iran-contra investigation and dismissed as "stupid" any suggestion that his pardoning of key defendants in the case made it appear that government officials are above the law. "No, it should not give any such appearance. Nobody is above the law, but the Constitution is quite clear on the power of the president," stated Mr. Bush. The obvious question now is how can a suspect of criminal activities pardon someone else in the very same case that he is being investigated for?

The notes Mr. Weinberger kept during his tenure as secretary of defense indicate that Mr. Bush, as Vice President under Ronald Reagan, was present at a White House meeting, Nov. 24, 1986, at which the president's men planned the cover-up. At that meeting, attended by all of Reagan's top advisers, was then Attorney General Ed Meese who announced that the missile shipments to Iran may have been illegal, but that the president did not know about the shipment at the time and, "no one contradicted Mr. Meese's incorrect statement concerning President Reagan's lack of knowledge," stated Weinberger. So?

Foreign Policy and the Domestic Scene

It almost sounds like a scene out of George Orwell's "1984," it reeks with double-speak. The night before Christmas, Mr. Bush pardoned his crime partners while almost out of the same breath he tried to convince the American people that his mission to Somalia is a "humanitarian" concern for the starving people there, clearly not mentioning the "hidden" military agenda that is unfolding each day. The U.S. military is now involved in a confrontation with the various clans to "restore order." Nothing is mentioned about the political gain this "restoring of order" will produce for U.S. geo-political aims in the region. Nothing is mentioned about the richness of the soil there and the potential for international investment, in the rich stores of cocoa, plutonium and oil there. There is a large demand in Western countries for cocoa once a Somalian major export, and plutonium which is in demand worldwide. A couple of weeks after the landing of the marines it was announced that Chevron and three other U.S. oil companies who had contracts with Somalia, the terms of which have been suspended since the Civil War broke out, were looking forward to the marines ending the civil war to resume the pumping of oil. Yet the president visited that country on tax-payers dollars at a time when more than one out of four African American children goes to bed hungry each night and more than 25 percent of American people live below the poverty line. Will the people of Somalia find justice from a nation which refuses it to its own citizenry? We think not!

The newly elected president, Bill Clinton, has stated that he stands four-square with the former President on his Middle East policy, despite the U.S. led military attack, the bombing and murdering of over 200,000 Iraqi women and children. He has stated his support of Bush's actions in Somalia, and his policy towards refugees from the brutal regime in Haiti. Since Bush paid for its foreign policy with an injust domestic policy, we can only expect more of the same from Mr. Clinton.

Although two things have been made clear under Mr. Bush: 1) the connection between poverty at home and intervention abroad is now clear, and 2) the result of Mr. Bush's foreign policies produces socialism for the wealthy (through such programs as the free-trade agreement, enterprise zones, and a decrease of capital gains tax) and free enterprise for the poor.

The bottom line has always been to serve the interest of the international ruling class

Of course, these economic schemes are not new. — International Monopoly Capital. Tax breaks are given to those entities at the expense of the general public and working people around the globe. Where justice is concerned, the fact that less than one percent of the world's population owns and controls over 95 percent of the world's wealth and resources cannot be seen as separate from what is happening with the working and low-income community in this country and around the world.

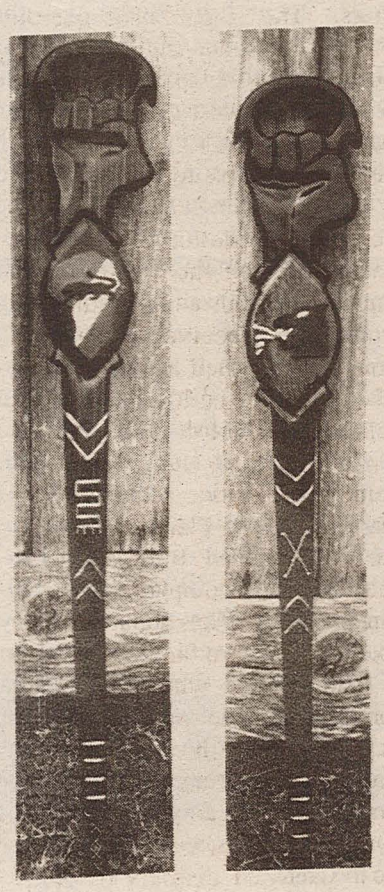
Despite religous and ethnic differences, worldwide, economics is the common denominator that produces a double standard on the social plane. If the question of famine was being seriously dealt with one would doubt that, of the world's 36 poorest countries would export food to north America. One would also doubt that each day 60,000 people would die of hunger — 40,000 of them children.

California alone grows and produces enough food to feed the entire United States, yet more than one out of every four African American children go to bed hungry each night, and twenty-five percent of the American people live in poverty.

The contradictions in the justice system won't be seriously addressed

Continued on page 20

Russell's Version



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Garment Workers Seek New Recourse for Job Grievances

On Thursday, October 15, 1992, immigrant Asian women garment workers and their supporters, assembled in front of the Jessica McClintock manufacturing headquarters in San Francisco. The purpose of the assembly was to demand restitution from McClintock, the multi-million dollar garment manufacturer and 1990 Woman of the Year, for work they had done but not gotten paid for when a McClintock subcontractor took off without paying them.

The McClintock workers wore small white plastic masks to protect themselves from identification and blacklisting.

The 12 low-income immigrant women workers, who were technically in the employ of L. Sewing Company, are demanding that McClintock pay them the $15,000 in wages they were owed when the subcontractor closed up after having paid them with bad checks. They are also demanding a two-year contract with McClintock.

According to Helen Kim, an organizer for the Asian Immigrant Workers Alliance, which the 12 workers turned to for help, McClintock responded that "We do not involve ourselves in the internal working of these businesses that we subcontract to."

Garment workers and their supporters were out on the picket line in front of McClintock's Union Square boutique, where they were met by San Francisco police.

Lora Jofoo, a representative of the Asian Law Caucus countered, "The manufactures know they do not pay the contractors enough money for them to pay minimum wage and overtime. Ninety percent of the shops in the Bay Area do not pay overtime — this (which is mandatory in order to get the products out on time) this is a fact the manufactures know."

One McClintock seamstress, who requested that her name not be mentioned for fear of retribution, said "My heart dropped, after visiting McClintock's boutique on San Francisco's fashionable Union Street. When I saw dresses selling for $175 to $200, for which I would have earned $5 for my labor." Other workers have complained of having to work seven days-a-week, 12 hours-a-day, with only one break for lunch.

As was stated by Helen Wong, board member of the Asian Immigrant Women's Alliance (AIWA), "The

Continued on next page

Trade Unions Under Government Regulation

Using the National Labor Relations Act as a tactical device, John L. Lewis led the greatest labor organizing drive in the history of the country, the CIO. In the late thirties the CIO organized all the main production industries " steel, auto, rubber, electrical. The CIO drive also uncovered new tactics for labor, such as the sit-down strike. Workers sat down and took over the factory so they couldn't be locked out. If the owners tried to come in to throw them out by force, the factory would be destroyed, too. Workers went on strike or sat down and put out the call for a CIO organizer. At its height, in 1936 or 1937, it took two weeks for the CIO to get an organizer to some of these places.

The Fallacy Of Contract Theory

With the existence of the federal unions, those organizing under state charters did not have a chance to do more than gain a contract for a year through recognition and jurisdiction strikes, at which point they would be "sweethearted" by the federal unions or the companies themselves, which they could not, because of the provisions of the state act, retain the organizational power to overcome. In the farm worker movement in California, under Cesar Chavez, the passage of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act at first swelled their numbers into the hundreds of thousands, and later cost them every contract and, therefore, virtually every member they had save 4-5000 presently. Because of the legal constrictions on these unions, organizers in 1972 began a new type of labor organization, unrestricted by the NLRA and subsequent amendments.

Community Organization Then And Now

Those organizations that were successful, such as the Knights of Labor at the end of the last century, were so by virtue of the fights they entered into, the determination and tirelessness of their organizers, and because they were clandestine. They also got their support *not from the government,* as present-day trade unions do from the Labor Department, but from the community. They turned not to the courts, but to the population to change the laws.

They won their victories not by sitting at a table with the employers, but by strikes, often violent strikes, which may not have resulted in a passel of contracts, but did drive the wages up and cut back the hours, to prevent them.

How The Independent, Non-contract Association Is Different

Compare the non-contract association, and the trade union under the NLRA. The former exists and continues and builds because of the interest of its members and the community. It offers benefits to its members, and membership is open to all. It is open to members of other labor organizations. In short, the organization is not dependent upon any relationship with any employer or any largesse derived there from; however the organization does have the ability to spin off unions and is able, through its fights on behalf of workers in the arena, to raise wages and improve conditions.

The trade union under the NLRA exists because it got 12 workers sign-ups and got 50% of the vote in an election against no union or a rival union. The union is dependent on the governments largesse, the non-contract association, on the community. The union has the power to collectively bargain, but what is it bargaining with, especially when there are too few jobs and nobody has any money?

There is neither enough money in the strike fund, nor can the workers afford to be out of work for a prolonged period. Since labor is entirely a buyers market, the workers can simply be replaced. The government is hostile, and will promote and enforce the replacements. Companies will, if necessary, go bankrupt to eject the union, reopening under another name or corporate legal fiction.

"Organized Labor's" Loss Of Bargaining Position

Experience since the PATCO strike has shown traditional labor unions to be too weak to win in a head on fight against employers, so more and more the unions themselves are turning to the MBAs for advice and assistance. Unlike the non-contract association, traditional unions have no broad community support, but only the amassed

Continued on next page

The Immigrant Worker

Following the Civil War, the United States entered the "Industrial Revolution" full swing. Newly-freed slaves flooded into the labor markets of the growing cities, fueling the engines of mass production. Railways welded together the economic structure of the continent, linking the big cities and the rich land of the nation. Coal, timber and minerals rolled into huge mills and furnaces. Most of the fortunes that still control the political and economic life of the United States today were made in the mines and mills of the late 1880's.

In the 1880's, the strongest force building up the nation was the workers who came to the United States from the slums and fields of Europe and Asia. Five and a half million immigrants came here in that one decade.

Westward expansion was made possible through railroads, and also by the freeing up of the U.S. Army. After the Civil War, most of the union troops continued to occupy the south to protect the Reconstruction government. In 1877 however, the Republicans in the north cut a deal with the southern Democrats. The Republicans got the White House, and the troops were pulled out of the south. The army was sent out west to force Native Americans from their lands. Land became available for settlement.

The biggest of all the land settlers were the railroads. The companies that built the first transcontinental railroads and the other big trunk lines received huge land grants along their rights-of-way. They wanted to build up population centers to establish new markets. An advertising campaign was launched to entice settlers which made the Great Plains sound like the promised land. Railroad agents and steamship companies flooded Europe with leaflets about the easy profits of western farming.

John Swinton, who wrote on the conditions of the workers of that time, described how contractors made their appearance under the American flag among the half-starved mudsills in some of the most wretched districts of Hungary, Italy or Denmark, tell the stories of fabulous wages to be gotten in America, bamboozle the poor creatures, rope them in and make contracts with terms that few

Continued on next page

Immigrant Worker

Continued from previous page

can understand. When they reached this country they found their golden dreams turned into nightmares, as they are put to work at even lower wages than those whom they threw out of work.

The new Americans began life here as *industrial serfs* in mines, steel mills, and railroad construction under terms of contract labor. **Such immigrants were paid little or nothing until they had reimbursed those who had imported them for their cost of passage and food, in effect making them indentured servants, working out the terms of their contracts.**

Despite already huge profits, employers looked for other ways to keep wages down and keep workers under control. They created a labor surplus through the importation of immigrant labor.

While the railroads lured the immigrant farmers out to the arid west, in the urban areas workers were no better off. Textile mills set up a subcontracting system known as "sweatshops" to exploit the workers as much as humanly possible.

The first contractor sublet the work to a 'sweater' whose shop accommodated from six to fifteen or twenty 'sweating' employees - men, women and children. Living, sleeping, and cooking arrangements overflowed into the workroom. Employees eat where they work and sleep on the goods. One fourth of the ready made clothing was put together this way.

But this is not the worst. Single families with just one room would often have another family as subtenants who would subcontract work from the 'sweaters.' These 'homeworkers' made another fourth of the clothing. The homes of these homeworkers included the most wretched in which human beings exist. The conditions of squalor and filth made even inspection impossible.

From the wholesale manufacturer, who handled millions of products each year, to the contractor, to the "sweater", to the "homeworker", the steps are steadily downward, so that the profit of each (except for the wretch at the bottom) is "sweated" from the next below him.

As the struggle being faced by the McClintock workers clearly points out, the working conditions for immigrant workers in the United States have not really changed over where they were more than one hundred years ago. Language and racial differences, cultural characteristics and, where applicable, immigration status have all been used to force immigrant workers to accept less, or get nothing, thereby keeping a wedge between them and other workers. That wedge, is simply reinforced by the National Labor Relations Act's criteria of organizing employees of employers

The only advances made by immigrant workers, regardless of their command of the English language, regardless of their country of origin, regardless of their immigrant status, have been made over the last 20 years as they joined with others in labor organizations of a new type that did not focus on the securing of a contract or the passage of a law or organizing employees of employers but rather organizes members into an association. These free and voluntary membership associations of farm workers, service workers and other low-income workers standing outside of U.S. labor laws have improved wages and working conditions for low-income workers merely by their presence within a community.

Government Regulation

Continued from previous page

dues from the members in a strike fund, that which has not already been expended on their salaries, in the Political Action fund, or committed in the pension fund, much less tied up in investments.

Consider also a new union. Say, they organize for the first time a local, or a new plant, or say, they beat a company union in an election. They are up for election again in a year, where their success depends on what they have gained for the workers in negotiations with the employers. Since they have little resources until the dues start rolling in, they have little power and the contract is likely to be heavily weighted towards the employer. They will be forced to negotiate, since if the parties change under a Supreme Court ruling of a year ago, the previous contract is void. That makes it easy for a company union or a more financially powerful union to promise more and replace it a year later. And because most contracts now are giving back concessions won earlier, most unions are better off NOT renegotiating, and most union elections are DECERTIFICATION elections " turning out the labor unions in favor of direct dealings with the company, which at least saves the dues.

During the war, the CIO had made and kept a no-strike pledge, with the exception of the UMW, Lewis own union. But 1946 saw another huge strike wave. With the reintroduction of the millions of servicemen and women back into the labor market and the artificially controlled wages and prices of the war, they fought to gain what they had been held back from claiming during the war. Strikes took place in unprecedented numbers in the first year after World War II ended.

Because most contracts now are giving back concessions won earlier, most unions are better off NOT renegotiating, and most union elections are decertification elections...

So, in 1947, Congress passed another bill, the Taft-Hartley Act, which was written by a team of hundreds of lawyers retained by the National Association of Manufacturers. The Taft-Hartley Act banned all of the tactics previously successfully used by labor " the secondary boycott, the sympathy strike, the sit-down, and others. Also, many of the best and most militant organizers and unions were removed or broken because they were communists or led by communists, or alleged to be communists or "fellow travellers" or simply wouldn't cooperate with them.

The results tell the story. Not one new union was formed between 1947 and 1971, when UFWA and Local 3 of the Cab Drivers were formed. The sole exception was Harry Bridges Longshoremen, who organized the whole of Hawaii. However, since Hawaii was not a State, at the time, but still a Territory, the NLRA had no application.

AFL-CIO Leadership Says Labor Better Off Without Labor Laws

Several years ago, even the head of the AFL-CIO, Lane Kirkland, who was never even MEMBER of a labor union, but worked in the AFL-CIO bureaucracy all his life recognized that unions would be better off without labor laws. The events of the late 60s and 70s in the labor struggle had shown why. The events since that time have confirmed the accuracy of the analysis.

The McClintock workers do not need a contract. They do not need a new law. They need a labor organization of a new type, based on the only type of organization that has been winning for labor in the past two decades.

Job Grievance

Continued from previous page

public needs to know that many of the clothes they buy are made in turn-of-the century sweatshops."

A sign at the L. Sewing Co read "You cannot go to the bathroom. No loud talking"

Employees charge that L. Sewing went three months without issuing their checks, and kept promising to pay them. Most are the breadwinniners of their family.

On April 1, 1991 the contractor told them they did not need to report to work. The following day, April 2, when the workers came to work, they found the factory had moved. On May 5, the subcontractor filed for bankruptcy, owing creditors $350,000.

Picket lines on behalf of the workers, organized by AIWA have extended from Providence Rhode Island, Portland, Oregon, to Albuquerque, New Mexico. News of the workers' strife has reached audiences as far away as Hong Kong. After the workers published an ad in the New York Times calling for McClintock to pay the worker the money they were due, the ad was countered by an ad from the McClintock camp claiming she was not responsible for the workers loss and that she would work within the industry to make things better. Less than one month later, McClintock faced a labor action from the United Paper Workers International Union who claimed that McClintock hired a contractor who had already been cited by the State Labor Department and NLRB for violating labor laws.

As recent as February 13, 1993, AIWA, the garment workers and their supporters were out on the picket line in front of McClintock's Union Square boutique, where they were met by San Francisco police officers who set up barricades to allow customers to walk around the worker's picket line.

According to Latika Malkani, AIWA spokesperson, the workers on the picket line have become more resolute. Latika quoted one of the workers as saying that " I don't care about the money. I want to prevent others from going the through same thing."

Because McClintock has a high concentration of stores in California the workers have concentrated their efforts there, but the workers are currently planning, according to Latika Malkami, to boost the national scope of their campaign and to zero in on the high school and college student market, because this market represents one of the largest consumers of McClintock's GUNNE SAX apparel.

The workers are asking all friends of labor to boycott JESSICA McCLINTOCK apparel and fragrance, SCOTT McCLINTOCK apparel and fragrance and GUNNE SAX apparel.

The National Labor Relations Act

The National Labor Relations Act was first passed in 1933 as part of the National Industrial Recovery Act, which was declared unconstitutional as an invasion of the rights of citizens of the United States to contract. It represented a new era of business and labor regulation. The Act, as rewritten, was subsequently allowed by the Supreme Court of the United States after general strikes broke out in San Francisco, Minneapolis and other places and, in the throes of depression, the country seemed on the verge of revolution.

It provided that if a union signed up a prescribed percentage of the workers at a plant, they could seek a federal election, the winner of which would be certified as bargaining agent for the employees of the employer, the latter of whom would be bound to bargain collectively in good faith with those representatives toward contract terms. The Act thereby created two distinct strata of the work force; the recognized and the unrecognized workers. The act gave impetus to the destruction of community organization through the unions by divorcing them from mass tactics like sit-down strikes which required community support for their success, by conferring a short-term benefit on a strata of workers that has never been more than 27% of the total workforce at the same time as it based that benefit on the election rather than the power of the organization of labor itself.

Another feature of the Act was that it introduced the dues check-off. With the dues check-off, the members' dues were deducted from their pay, directly. Under the new scheme, however, after a local was organized, the fight ended. The union never had to do anything for its members and its members never had to do anything for the union. In the trade union of today, perhaps 5% even know who their shop steward is.

Since the NLRA defines unions as bargaining agents for employees of employers, workers can be shut out of whatever benefit unionization purports to offer by giving work to independent contractors, hiring through temporary agencies, or subcontracting to small underfinanced shops as McClintock does.

Somalia

Continued from page 9

Mr. Bush sent in 13,000 of his Marines. There is "money" in running a country — including Somalia — and there are a lot of professional soldiers loose in Africa that for the right amount of "money" could stop an invasion by 13,000 of the kind of Marines that graduate from Company 'F' in Frankfurt these day's — sea-going Marines. A lot of them could be stopped by "punks and thugs" with .50 caliber machine-guns in pick-up trucks unless Mr. Bush wants to let his "smart bombs" loose again, but this time it's against a civilian population he has stated he is trying to save.

In Iraq it didn't matter, and it still doesn't. From July until the end of November, 50,000 Iraqi children between the ages of one and five died of the effects of the war that took place in Iraq. Mr. Bush appears to be unreasonably unnerved by 700 Somalians he says are dying a day of famine.

As for the claim that the United States is moving in on an humanitarian mission, there are some who say a humanitarian mission at home would not be taken amiss, that if it were really humanitarian aid, and not armaments, we need it here. If the U.S. was really concerned about the well being of the starving population of Somalia why not assist the leaders to build irrigation so they could grow enough food so they could feed their people?

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Prisons

Continued from page 9

license plates, roads, or fire-fighting. Under this new mandate, these benefits are lost and companies will instead use prison labor to line their own pockets by undermining the wages of workers on the outside. Third, when jobs move from the community to the prison, the state will have higher unemployment and welfare costs. Finally, with higher rates of unemployment, crime will increase, and the prison population will swell even more rapidly.

To understand the impact of these programs, it must be understood that the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. (A few years ago, it was third, behind the former USSR and South Africa, but the U.S. has now surpassed them.) Five times as many African Americans are imprisoned in the U.S. than Blacks in South Africa.

The purpose of enterprise should not be profit, but the benefit of the community. The needs of our communities are great, and society should provide a socially beneficial job to anyone who wants one, in or out of jail. This would reduce crime. If prisons work, the state wouldn't continuously be building more of them. It costs more to imprison someone than to send them to Harvard, yet the state imprisons more African American males of college age than are in college. To build a just society, we need to realize point two of the Black Panther Party platform, "We want full employment for our people."

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Prison labor seems to fulfill the dream of bosses to have a workforce that can do nothing but obey without protest or the right to unionize. If workers dared to strike, they would face a collective lockdown, the threat of solitary confinement, the loss of visitor "privileges", beatings, negative parole decisions, etc.

IN UNITY, THERE IS STRENGTH

We recognize that the fundamental problem of low-income workers, in Oakland and the Bay Area as in communities world-wide, is the lack of income. We Make a pledge to strive to change this condition as soon as possible. We must first, however, become united, an actual power that can make it possible for us to help ourselves—to fight for our own interests on our own behalf. Our 11-Point Benefit Program, free of charge to association members, enables us to survive, while we organize and build that strength.

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Black Panther Party 10-Point Program

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM. WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES.

We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions which exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE.

We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all of its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES.

We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS.

We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people on our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY.

We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE.

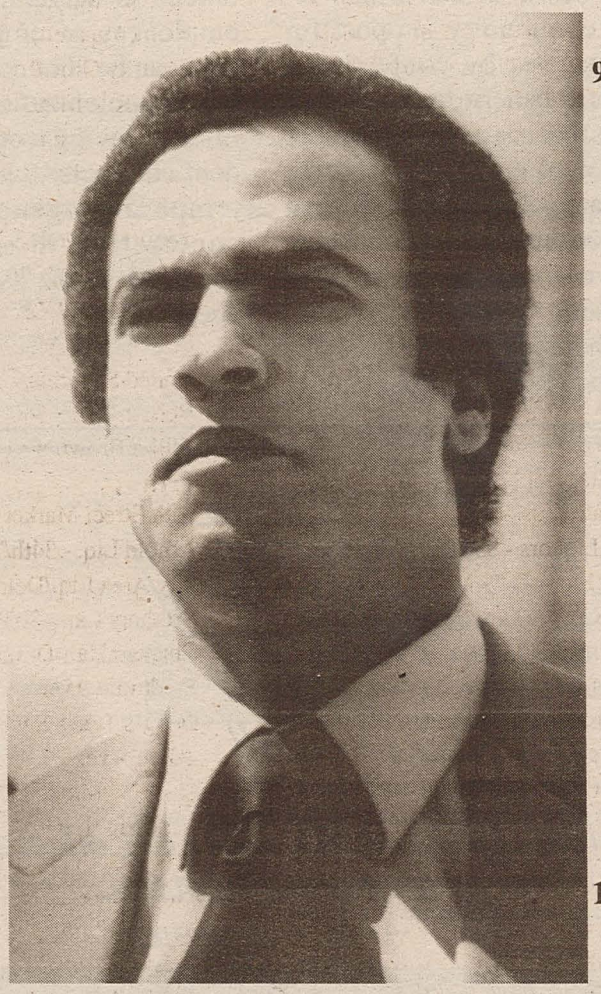
We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities which will not only treat our Illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but which will also develop preventative medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe its our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGRESSION.

We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires if the U.S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U.S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.



Black Panther Co-Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY.

We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U.S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U.S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions which are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons are brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism., it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

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AJL Liquor - 1500 23rd Ave.
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Big M Groc/Deli - 822 McArthur Bl.
Black & White Liq. - 2701 Fruitvale
Bonfire - 1615 MacArthur Bl.
Brand New Mkt. - 7923 McArthur
Brookfield Groc. - 9786 Edes Ave.
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California Valet - 4330 E.14th St.
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Century Petroleum - 403 E.12th St.
Checkers Tailors/Trader - E. Mall
Cynthia Alterations - 73rd/Bancroft
Dave's - 2484 Park Ave.
Discount Foods - 1920 35th Ave.
E&R Liquor - 2101 8th Ave.
Eastlake Wash Hse - 1225 2nd Ave.
Ene's Market - 7981 MacArthur Bl.
Ezzan Market - 2627 38th Ave.
Fairfax Liquour - 5403 Foothill Bl.
Family Market - 2627 Hillside
Food King's Spr Mkt. - 8824 E.14th
Food Mart. - 6600 Foothill Blvd.
Food Town Groc. - 6423 E.14th St.
Four Star Liq. - 2884 38th Ave.
Fruitvale Liqs. - 2678 Fruitvale Ave.
G&M Liquors - 8301 E.14th St.
Giants Liq. - 7629 MacArthur Blvd.
Goins Corner - 2520 Foothill
Golden Star Ck. Cash - 5395 Fthill
Greer's Liq./Groc. - 610 98th Ave.
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Hereafter Seafood/Deli- 448A High
Hub's Liq. Store - 9414 E.14th St.
J&LJ Market - 2201 14th Ave.
J&M Mkt. -2151 Seminary Ave.
Jim's Liq./Deli - 8137 MacArthur
K&B Mkt. - 7701 Bancroft Ave.
K&S Groc. - 2286 E.14th St.
Kay's Liquor - 401 E.14th St.
Keeton Univ. Liq. - 8737 MacArthur
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Market/Groc./Liq. - 2728 Fruitvale
Mean Chey Mkt. - 4095 Foothill
N&M Mkt. - 2731 13th Ave.
Niles Super Mkt. - 1536 23rd Ave.
Oak Tree Groc./Deli - 1601 28th Av.
Oakland Food Ct. - 9422 Edes Ave.
Oakland Liquor - 1335 E.17th St.
One Stop - 8607 Bancroft Ave.
One Stop Liq. - 8400 E.14th St.
Pennanan Mkt. - 3201 38th Ave.
Penny Saver Mkt. - 4800 Foothill
Phil-AM Mart - 4330C E.14th St.
Plucky's Liq. Store - 6415 E.14th
Popular Market - 1088 98th Ave.
Red Sea Market - 3800 Foothill Bl.
Rich (Apparell) - Eastmont Mall
Security Groc./Liq. - 201 E.14th
Shop-Rite Mkt. - 5800 Bancroft Av.
Star Liq./Deli - 7940 E.14th St.
Super Burrito - 2680 Fruitvale
Sybil's Liq./Mkt. - 501 E.18th St.
Tony's Liq./Groc. - 2003 23rd Ave.
Two Star Liq. - 2020 McArthur Bvd.
U&I Liqs. #2 - 2710 Foothill Blvd.
USA Corner Mkt. - 105th/Edes
United Supermarket - 6651 Bancroft
Vernon's #1 - 3400 Vernon St.
Willie Brown's - 1933 Fruitvale

North

65th Street Market - 6444 Sn Pablo
Arnold Liq. - 34th/Telegraph
Bay Area Liq./Deli - 3148 San Pablo
Brothers Liq. - 3039 Shattuck Ave.
Chicago Hair Design & Co. - 3627 Piedmont Ave.
Doug's Texas Style BBQ - 3600 San Pablo Ave.
East Bay Mkt. - 5350 M.L.K. Blvd.
General Liq./Groc. - 4301 Market
Jugs Liq. - 3645 San Pablo Ave.
Kings Market - 5442 M.L. King Jr.
LVS BBQ - 5895 San Pablo Ave.
M & B Beauty Supply - Broadway & MacArthur
Marcus Book Stores - 3900 M.L. K.
Merrakesh II Deli - 5751 Market St.
Moler Barber College-3500 Brdwy
Mr. Ward's Magnificent Barber Shop - 4828 Telegraph Ave.
N & A Mkt. - 3198 Adeline St.
Nassan Groc. - 3401 Adeline St.
New York Mkt. - 3446 Market St.
Northside Liq. - 4505 Market
P & M Deli/liq. - 1405 34th St.
Pill Hill Instant Printing- 2815 Telegraph Ave.
Red's Market - 5850 San Pablo Ave.
S & S Seafood - 4923 Telegraph
Saeed's/ Abdul Liq. - 57th/Adeline
Sana Mkt. - 3710 Teleg. Ave.
T's Wauzi Records- 3540 Broadway
U.S. Liq. - 2942 Sacramento
Unique Hair Styling Cntr. - 5696 San Pablo Ave.
Uptown Market - 5635 Shattuck
Walton's Groceries- 6604 San Pablo
Williams Liq. - 5830 Telegraph
Your Scents - 2874 Telegraph Ave.

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Justice

Continued from page 14

either, not by the official media, government policy, or those at the top, because after all, there is hardly any distinction between these players. Those at the top, the wealthy, sets the agenda based upon what they need to increase their wealth, i.e., cheap labor, cheap resources, etc. The government policies are fashioned to meet these needs, i.e., free-trade agreements, enterprise zones, labor laws, and foreign intervention. As allies of the government (the media), wants to sell us on the fairness and necessity of these policies, i.e., "Just Cause" in Panama, Desert Storm in Iraq, the relief efforts in Somalia, "more jails," corrupt unions, prison labor, etc.

There will be no justice for Rodney King, there will be no justice for the poor of this country or the world and won't be, until we as a people replace this system (which by its nature is unfair and unjust to working people whom it *must* oppress), with a new system that puts justice and prosperity for working people first.

Those in power know that the American criminal justice system is an essential part of their oppressive apparatus, and without it, those in power would not be in power. And what black and other low-income communities are realizing, since the Rodney King affair, is that "justice" is only for those who can afford it ($$$$). "JUST-US."

Geronimo

Continued from page 13

When Dan White shot San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and gay County Supervisor Harvey Milk to death, he served less than 5 years in prison. KKK and Aryan Nations leaders Richard Butler and Robert Miles, charged in connection with bank robberies and racist murders, were freed by an all-white jury in 1988. In 1992, Los Angeles exploded when four white police were acquitted of the savage video-taped beating of Rodney King.

Geronimo refuses to apologize for a murder he did not commit. And he will not ever renounce his political belief. Like Nelson Mandela, Geronimo is in prison for his principles.

For more information about the efforts to free Geronimo contact the following:

International Campaign to Free geronimo ji Jaga (pratt)
P.O. Box 3585
Oakland, California 94609
(510) 268-0979

Los Angeles Chapter InternationalCampaign to Free
geronimo ji Jaga
P.O. Box 781-328
Los Angeles, CA 90016
(213) 758-6888

Write Geronimo at this address:
geronimo ji Jaga (pratt)
No. B40319
P.O. Box 1902B 1A208L
Tehachapi, California 93581

Black and Proud

by Shavaughn Michelle Baker, Age 12

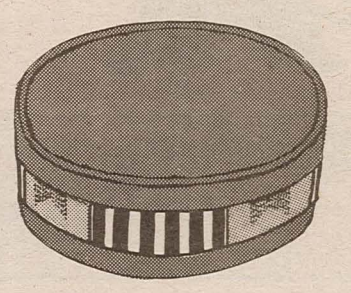
Black and proud, that's all I can be. Black and proud, we slaved for free.

Brought by chains, not by our own will; the spirit of my people strong still.

Brought by chains, they took us from our land; took our gold and cuffed our hands.

The young, the gifted, the Black - the future of our people will get it back!

N'ZINGA'S



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